Daily Report

East Europe

FBIS-EEU-88-028
Thursday
11 February 1988

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Gorbachev Declaration on Afghanistan Praised

AU091747 Sofia BTA in English
1636 GMT 9 Feb 88

["Afghan Issue Constructively Addressed"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, February 9 (BTA commentator Metodi Krustev)—To put it in a nutshell, what Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's Monday statement on Afghanistan achieved was a major step towards the settlement of one of the acutest regional conflicts, a step which may have positive implications across the spectrum of international relations.

Several highlights attract attention in this document.

First, the Soviet Union cuts the timetable for its troop withdrawal from 12 to 10 months and sets a precise date for the beginning of its pullout. This fact can only give a fresh impetus to the constructive turn which the proximity [as received] Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva have taken on their home stretch. The negotiations may be further catalysed to a successful finish by the possibility, mentioned in the statement, that the Soviet withdrawal could start even earlier than May 15 if an Afghan settlement agreement is reached before March 15.

Secondly, the withdrawal of Soviet troops is linked to the prevention of any further interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. The idea of this linkage was formulated by Mr Gorbachev back when he met last year with U.S. President Reagan: The Soviet Union does not intend to use its influence for the installation of a pro-Soviet regime in Afghanistan, but then it cannot accept an interference there that would lead to the installation of a pro-American regime. This stand, based on the principle of non-intervention by one state in the domestic affairs of another and on respect for each people's right to self-determination, logically leads to the next substantial point in the statement. The formation of a coalition government is not set as a precondition for the withdrawal of Soviet forces. The completion of the national reconciliation process remains a strictly internal affair within the competence of the Afghan people. What better example can be cited of new political thinking in action applied to present-day international relations?

Finally, the statement has yet another important merit: an underlying future-oriented political concept. The settlement of the Afghan problem, for which the statement may prove decisive— provided the United States address it with the same good will—may serve as a model for the peaceful solution of the other regional conflicts, just as the INF Treaty set an example in coping with the foremost priority of the day: nuclear disarmament.

Lukanov Returns From Moscow CEMA Session

AU081610 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian
5 Feb 88 p 8

[Text] Andrey Lukanov, candidate member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo, minister of foreign economic relations, and permanent representative of Bulgaria to CEMA, returned from Moscow on 4 February. He participated in the work of the 126th Session of the CEMA Executive Committee.

Military Aspects of Vienna CSCE Reviewed

AU090857 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian
4 Feb 88 p 4

[Ivan Todorov article: "Military Aspects of European Security"]

[Text] Vienna, 4 February (especially written for the daily TRUD)—Events in Europe, and particularly following the signing of the Soviet-American INF Treaty, with increasing emphasis are raising the question of the role played by the Vienna meeting in the process of consolidating military security on the continent, and on its role in maintaining a dynamic pace in the disarmament sector. To put it most generally, two tasks are waiting to be solved at the Vienna meeting: to achieve a specific agreement on resuming the Stockholm conference and to establish a mandate for negotiations on conventional disarmament in Europe.

There is still no reason to talk about essential progress on these two problems—this is an opinion shared by the leaders of the socialist countries' delegations, including the Bulgarian delegation, who took the floor at the last plenary session. The proposals of the socialist countries are aimed at adopting an agreement on the elaboration of a new complex of measures mutually complementing each other and pertaining not only to ground forces, but to independent military air force and naval operations in Europe and in the adjacent sea, ocean, and air territories. Thanks to the stand adopted to the NATO member states, however, for the time being, we have not only failed to define the character and geographical scope of the new confidence and security measures, according to which the second stage of the Stockholm conference is supposed to work, but even the decision on resuming the work of this conference has not yet been adopted. One of the main reasons for this stagnation is the refusal of the Western countries to accept that the full name of the Stockholm conference should be used in the document, since the word "disarmament" is part of this name. The question in this case, however, does not simply involve a problem of phraseology. This approach fully justifies the fear that an attempt at distorting this important all-European forum by eliminating disarmament problems may be in the process of preparation.

The question of starting negotiations on conventional disarmament in Europe—which, for the time being, is primarily the subject of consultations among the 23 Warsaw Pact and NATO member states—has made some progress. An agreement was reached to begin negotiations as early as 1988. The part on goals and methods has been coordinated in a special plan. There is agreement on certain questions of the preamble and on the questions of holding negotiations within the framework of the all-European process, in particular. At the same time, however, there are still numerous differences on the main element of the mandate of negotiations—the subject of arms limitations. The socialist countries manifest an optimally flexible approach. Initially they were in favor of including tactical nuclear weapons into the complex of limitations. However, after considering the negative attitude of the NATO member states, they subsequently proposed that, along with conventional arms, only dual capable systems should be included in the mandate.

U.S.'s Whitehead Interviewed at Visit's End

AU091905 Sofia POGLED in Bulgarian No 6, 8 Feb 88, p 7

[Interview with John Whitehead, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, by "POGLED foreign political commentator": "There Is Something New"]

[Text] It was 0830 on 5 February. After a brief visit to Bulgaria (his second in 12 months), Mr Whitehead was preparing to leave Sofia by air.

On the previous day Mr Whitehead had talked for 2 and 1/2 hours with Todor Zhivkov. "I enjoyed the time I spent with him, and thanked him for his polite reception," the visitor said, in describing his meeting with the Bulgarian party and state leader. Mr Whitehead also held talks with Petur Mladenov, Stoyan Ovcharov, Andrey Lukanov, and Ivan Tenev, chairman of the "Electronics" Association. He was kind enough to answer questions from POGLED's foreign political commentator.

"The new features in our cooperation in the campaign against narcotics trafficking and international terrorism are that we are discussing these problems and regularly exchanging information. Since we are exchanging such information, the terrorists and narcotics traffickers have nowhere to hide. If a particular country has failed to join in such cooperation, it becomes a paradise for terrorists and traffickers in narcotics. Drug addiction is not a big problem in Bulgaria, but it is a serious one in the United States. Again, narcotics are produced in many other countries, and the traffickers sometimes transit Bulgaria on their way to the consumer countries. This is why we are cooperating with the Bulgarian authorities in order to halt this flow."

[Question] A short while ago you mentioned that restructuring has also started in Bulgaria. Have you felt this?

[Whitehead] I have heard about it. My stay was very brief, but next year I hope to see what I have heard about. I have heard about great economic reforms, which impressed me. I believe your government has chosen the correct path.

[Question] Did you have time to visit some of the cultural or historical sights of Sofia?

[Whitehead] This time I was only able to visit the "Design in the United States" exhibition, but last year I spent a little more time here and managed to see some interesting places. Bulgaria is a marvelous country, although not everyone in the West knows about it. You have a rich history and culture. One only has to think about the great problems that your people have had to face, the number of invasions and occupations—disturbances that we Americans have not experienced. It was interesting for me to see once again how history has influenced your everyday life, your culture, and your way of thinking. However, I feel that you are looking more to the future; your approach to the world is different, and Bulgaria today is playing a greater role in international relations. In this sense it has left its own borders, and in my view this is a fine thing.

Tanchev Tours Middle East, Meets With Leaders

Arrives in Jordan

AU061927 Sofia BTA in English 1915 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Amman, February 6 (BTA)—Today Mr Petur Tanchev, first vice president of Bulgaria's State Council and secretary of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party, arrived on an official visit of friendship to Jordan.

In the afternoon Mr Petur Tanchev conferred with Mr Dhuqan Salim al-Hindawi, acting prime minister of Jordan, deputy prime minister and minister of education and instruction.

The sides expressed satisfaction with the promotion of Bulgaro-Jordanian relations and outlined the opportunities to put political, economic and cultural contacts on a new level.

Mr Petur Tanchev emphasised that the radical restructuring under way in all spheres of socioeconomic life in Bulgaria opens up fresh opportunities for enhanced cooperation with other countries.

In the exchange of views on international issues, the sides ascertained a proximity of views on the key problems of our time.

The situation in the Middle East was examined in detail. The sides condemned Israel's aggressive actions and the repressions against the Arab population in the occupied

territories. It was emphasised that Bulgaria and Jordan declare themselves in favour of the convocation of an international Middle East peace conference.

The sides share the view that the Iran-Iraq war has to be ended and a political settlement found for the conflict by means of peace negotiations. In this connection, the Bulgarian side commended highly the Arab summit in Amman and the decisions it adopted to this effect. The sides discussed the role of Jordan and of King Husayn for the success of the Amman summit and in the efforts towards an end of the Iran-Iraq conflict in keeping with UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Meets Jordan's Prince Hasan

AU071919 Sofia BTA in English
1821 GMT 7 Feb 88

["Promotion Sought for Bulgaro-Jordanian Cooperation"—BTA headline]

[Text] Amman, February 7 (BTA)—Today Mr Petur Tanchev, first vice president of Bulgaria's State Council and secretary of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party, who is paying an official visit of friendship to Jordan, was received by H.R.H. The Crown Prince of Jordan, Prince Hasan.

The Bulgarian guest handed the Crown Prince a personal message from Mr Todor Zhivkov, president of Bulgaria's State Council, for King Husayn of Jordan. On behalf of the Bulgarian leader, Mr Tanchev conveyed cordial greetings and best wishes to the Jordanian head of state for the prosperity of the friendly Jordanian people and willingness for the further promotion of bilateral relations. On behalf of King Husayn, Prince Hasan thanked for the greetings and in turn conveyed best wishes for Bulgaria's prosperity and further progress.

The sides stressed their shared desire to promote their political relations, to diversify further their business and cultural contacts by seeking new ways to capitalize on the opportunities for cooperation. It was emphasised that the fine Bulgaro-Jordanian relations are in the best interests of both countries and benefit the cause of peace and understanding in the world.

Mr Petur Tanchev indicated that Bulgaria attaches great importance to her contacts with the Arab world. She takes an unswerving and principled line and renders consistent support to the Arab countries, to the Palestinian people in their efforts towards a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict.

The Crown Prince of Jordan commended highly the consistent support rendered by Bulgaria, the USSR and the socialist countries as a whole to the just Arab cause and expressed gratitude for their principled position on the Middle East problem. He voiced concern over the ongoing Iran-Iraq war and over tensions in the Persian Gulf. Prince Hasan wished Bulgaro-Jordanian relations a continued upgrade development.

Concludes Visit to Jordan

AU081511 Sofia BTA in English
1431 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Amman, February 8 (BTA)—Mr Peter Tanchev, first vice president of the State Council of Bulgaria and secretary of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party, had a meeting here with Mr Ahmad al-Lawzi, president of the Senate of Jordan's parliament.

The two politicians discussed the development of the Bulgaro-Jordanian relations and the prospects for their further activation. They paid special attention to the role which the two parliaments play in promoting the relations between Bulgaria and Jordan.

In exchanging views on international issues the Bulgarian vice president and the Jordanian parliamentarian noted the historical significance of the Soviet-American summit last December. They noted that the calling of an international conference on the Middle East would be the only correct way to find a lasting and comprehensive solution to the conflict.

Mr Peter Tanchev had a meeting with Mr Murwan al-Tall, director general of the Jordanian Cooperative Union, with whom he discussed the ways for developing the contacts between the Bulgarian Agrarian Party and the Jordanian cooperative organization. These relations may help further promote the bilateral relations especially in the field of agriculture.

Deputy Foreign Minister Lyubomir Popov, who is also member of the Bulgarian delegation, was received in Amman by Mr Marwan Dudin, acting minister of foreign affairs of Jordan and minister of the occupied territories. He also had a meeting with Mr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khayyat, minister of Islamic affairs, holy places and religious trusts.

Mr Peter Tanchev left Amman this afternoon. He was seen off at the airport by Mr Dhuqan al-Hindawi, acting premier of Jordan and by other officials.

Conducts Talks in Iraq

AU091903 Sofia BTA in English
1805 GMT 9 Feb 88

["Bulgaria-Iraq: To the Benefit of Traditional Amity"—BTA headline]

[Text] Baghdad, February 9 (BTA)—The shared desire to promote the traditional Bulgaro-Iraqi relations finds a fresh expression in the official visit of friendship paid here by Mr Petur Tanchev, first vice president of the State Council and secretary of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party.

At his meeting today with Mr Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, vice president of Iraq, the two ascertained with satisfaction that Bulgaro-Iraqi contacts are making vigorous and fruitful progress. The meetings between the two countries' leaders, Mr Todor Zhivkov and Mr Saddam Husayn, are instrumental in the promotion of cooperation and in opening new prospects to it.

Mr Petur Tanchev briefed his Iraqi host on the overall concept of the further construction of socialism and on the reform of socioeconomic life in Bulgaria. The profound restructuring, the strategic policy of qualitatively new growth rates on the basis of scientific and technological advances in Bulgaria and Iraq's plans for greater efficiency of production provide favourable conditions for better business interaction to the mutual benefit. There is readiness and willingness for such an effort on both sides.

It was emphasised that Bulgaria favours the establishment of an all-embracing international security system and a peaceful solution of regional conflicts. She declares herself in favour of an immediate end to the Iran-Iraq war in compliance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and of a settlement of the disputes by peaceful political means. Bulgaria supports the Soviet proposal for the withdrawal from the Persian Gulf of all naval ships belonging to states which do not have an outlet on the Gulf and for their replacement by a U.N. force.

The two sides favour the convocation of an authoritative international Middle East conference to be attended by all parties concerned, including the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The vice president of Iraq expressed gratitude for Bulgaria's consistent support for the Arab cause. He commended highly this country's constructive policy in the Balkans, in Europe and in the world at large. Mr Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf set forth the Iraqi stand on the matter of a settlement of the armed conflict with Iran.

The sides indicated that the Soviet-American summit in Washington and the INF Treaty are of enormous importance as a major first step towards actual nuclear disarmament.

Today Mr Petur Tanchev also conferred with Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister of Iraq. They pointed out that the new conditions make it possible for Bulgaro-Iraqi cooperation to be diversified and extended to make use of the enhanced capabilities.

Meets With President Husayn

AU110828 Sofia BTA in English
2034 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, February 10—Iraqi President Mr. Saddam Husayn received today Mr. Petur Tanchev, first vice president of the State Council of Bulgaria. The Bulgarian guest handed a personal message to Iraq's head of state from Mr. Todor Zhivkov, president of the State Council of Bulgaria.

The president of Iraq expressed satisfaction over the upgrade development of the Bulgaro-Iraqi relations and stressed Iraq's willingness for their broadening in interest of the two peoples and in interest of understanding and peace in the world.

Mr. Saddam Husayn stressed the importance of Bulgaria's peace-loving policy in the Balkans, Europe and in the World. The president emphasised Bulgaria's principled position in support of the just and peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict through the convening of an international conference with the participation of all sides interested, the Palestine Liberation Organization included—the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Iraq's president dwelled on the war between Iran and Iraq and on the number of international initiatives for its cessation and for the solution of the conflict through peaceful means. Once again he confirmed Iraq's readiness to stop the war and for all-round and just settlement of all questions on the basis of Resolution 598 of the UN Security Council, of the UN Charter and international law.

The Bulgarian side expressed support to the efforts for the cessation of the military conflict in this important region of the world and for the undertaking of the road of peaceful negotiations in compliance with Resolution 598 of the UN Security Council. It was stressed at the meeting that Bulgaria and Iraq condemn the expansionist policy of Israel and the repressions in the territories occupied by it.

During the exchange of opinions on international issues the two sides assessed highly the Soviet-American summit in Washington and the I.N.F. Treaty as an important step in the name of the future and survival of mankind.

Iraq's vice president Mr. Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf also took part in the talk which passed in a friendly atmosphere and in the spirit of mutual understanding.

Today, Mr. Petur Tanchev, secretary of the Bulgarian Agrarian party and first vice president of Bulgaria's State Council, had a meeting with the leadership of the all-Iraqi Agricultural Union and with Mr. Khalid al-Badr, chairman of the union and chairman of the Iraqi-Bulgarian Society for Friendship. The two sides discussed the further activation of the traditional friendly relations between the two organizations in interest of the Bulgaro-Iraqi cooperation in different spheres and especially in the sphere of agriculture. Mr. Petur Tanchev and Mr. Halid Mohammed al-Badr signed a protocol for cooperation between the Bulgarian Agrarian Party and the All-Iraqi Agricultural Union for the 1988-1990 period, which envisages a number of concrete measures for widening of the relations.

Mr. Petur Tanchev left Iraq today in the afternoon.

Further Reportage

For the respective host countries' media coverage of the visit to the Middle East by Petur Tanchev, first deputy chairman of Bulgaria's State Council, see the Jordan Section on 6 February, the Iraq section on 10 February, and the Egypt section on 11 February of the Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT.

Mladenov Receives Arab League Ambassadors

AU101538 Sofia BTA in English 1442 GMT 10 Feb 88

["Invariable Support"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, February 10 (BTA)—Today Mr Petur Mladenov, minister of foreign affairs, received, at their request, the ambassadors of the Arab League member states accredited to this country: Mr Nadjib Boulbina of Algeria, Mr Fawzi Taqir al-'Ani of Iraq, Mr 'Ali Munassar Muhammad of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Mr Talib Jalal al-Naqib of Kuwait, Mr 'Umar Muftah Dallal of Libya, Mr Husayn Massauy [spelling as received] of Lebanon, Mr Abdelhamid Bennani of Morocco, and Mr Taha al-Khayrat of Syria, as well as Mr Ismail Muhammad Abu Shamalah, permanent representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization. They delivered to Mr Mladenov a declaration in connection with the flaring up struggle of the Palestinian population against the Israeli occupiers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The declaration calls for aid and support to the Palestinian patriots. It is indicated that a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East can only be achieved by a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands and by the exercise of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people. The document emphasises the need for the convocation of an international conference under UN auspices to be attended by all parties concerned, the Palestine Liberation Organisation included.

The Arab ambassadors thanked Bulgaria for her principled stand on the Middle East conflicts and on the ways for its settlement.

Mr Petur Mladenov reiterated Bulgaria's invariable support for the just cause of the Arab peoples. He emphasised that the Bulgarian people take the side of the Palestinians fighting for freedom and independence.

Mandate Commission Report to BCP Conference

AU081233 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 30 Jan 88 p 1

[Summary of the Mandate Commission Report to the BCP National Conference, read at the 29 January morning session of the BCP National Conference by Georgi Vanev, chairman of the Mandate Commission]

[Excerpts] Georgi Vanev, chairman of the Mandate Commission read the commission's report.

It reads: The accountability and election meetings, which took place at the party organizations, and whose participants elected the delegates who have gathered in this hall, became an important stage in mastering, analyzing, and implementing the new ideas and practical approaches to further constructing socialism in Bulgaria. [passage omitted]

Some 3,226 delegates have been unanimously elected on the basis of the party membership on 1 October 1987—968,729 members—and in accordance with the norms on representation in the oblast and Sofia City party conferences, adopted by the BCP Central Committee July Plenum. [passage omitted]

The largest number of delegates—1,551 or 48 percent—come from the field of material production. [passage omitted]

There are 247 delegates who are agrarian workers. [passage omitted]

There are 437 delegates with scientific titles and degrees. Some 10 of them are academicians, 7—corresponding members, 185— professors, senior scientific fellows, and docents, and 235—doctors and candidates of science. [passage omitted]

The following party veterans are among us: Tsola Dragoycheva, Yordan Katrandzhiev, Sava Ganovski, Ruben Avramov, Stoyan Karadzhov, Vera Nacheva, and others. They are an example to the young generation with their rich revolutionary, political,working, and life experience, selflessness and loyalty to the cause of communism. [passage omitted]

Some 2,379 of the delegates are members of elective party organs of the oblast, municipal, combine, plant, and village party committees and audition commissions and bureaus of the primary party organizations. Some 214 of them are secretaries of primary party organizations, and 544 are members of the bureaus of primary party organizations. [passage omitted]

The Communists, elected as members of state and public organs and organizations, have an important role and responsibility in achieving a qualitative turning point in the political system. Some 1,130 delegates are their representatives at the conference, 232 among them are National Assembly members. [passage omitted]

The number of women-delegates is significant. Some 458 of them are workers, 657 hold elective party positions, 461 have been elected in state organs and the mass political organizations, 36 have scientific degrees and titles, and 189 have honorary titles and orders. [passage omitted]

Representatives of all generations of Communists are attending the conference:

Some 8.1 percent of the delegates are younger than 29 years;

The age of 18.2 percent is 30 to 39 years;

The age of 33.7 percent is 40 to 49 years;

The age of 27.5 percent is 50 to 59 years;

The age of 12.5 percent is over 60 years.

Some 11.2 percent of the delegates have party service of up to 5 years;

Some 9.3 percent—6 to 10 years;

Some 28.6 percent—11 to 20 years;

Some 27.2 percent—21 to 30 years;

Some 14.4 percent—over 30 years. [passage omitted]

The report of the Mandate Commission was unanimously approved by the delegates.

Delegates' Statements

AU081529 [Editorial Report] Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian on 29, 30, and 31 January and 1 February carries "Statements to the BCP National Conference" of delegates to and guests of the BCP National Conference. The following statements are carried in addition to those previously reported:

RABOTNICHESKO DELO on 29 January on page 7 carries the 1,600-word statement of Zhulieta Bikova, "engineer at the Plovdiv City Memory Devices Plant and delegate from Plovdiv Oblast." Bikova describes the successes of the youth brigade at her plant. She points out that "the chains of the old thinking and old habits" are still preventing the brigade members from "struggling for the new elements and fulfilling themselves as creators." She stresses the importance of strengthening discipline and implementing contractual obligations.

The same newspaper on the same page carries the 3,000-word statement of Ivan Panev, "first secretary of the BCP Sofia City Committee and delegate from Sofia City." Panev describes the importance of restructuring in general and the decisions of the BCP Central Committee July Plenum in particular. In this context he points out "Comrade Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of our party, has the main merit for introducing the new ideas and premises." Panev emphasizes that "the previous model of social development cannot serve us any more because its possibilities have been exhausted and conditions of disproportions and contradictions have been created." He sees as "the main socioeconomic and political task" the necessity "to conduct in the next 10-15 years large-scale changes in developing production capacities, perfecting social relations, and developing and enriching socialist democracy and self-management." He urges the Communists to set a personal example, because "the fate of restructuring depends to a decisive degree on the behavior and deeds of the Communists, party organizations, and the city party organization."

RABOTNICHESKO DELO on 30 January on page 3 carries the 2,800-word statement of Lyuben Nikolov, "head of the 'Sociology' Department at the Kliment Okhridski Sofia University and delegate from Sofia Oblast." Nikolov dwells on the importance of preparing and training cadres of a new type, and in this context urges the university to contribute to "solving the country's needs and problems." He describes his department's scientific activity, stressing that "a plan to turn Sofia University into a self-managing organization is being discussed now." He analyzes the contribution of the social sciences to illuminating restructuring and the concept worked out the BCP Central Committee July Plenum, and points out the importance of "introducing total democracy in relations within science itself."

The paper carries on the same page the 1,200-word statement of Peycho Penev, "Hero of Socialist Labor, leader of the cattle-breeding brigade at Bozveliysko Village, Provadiya Municipality, and delegate from Varna Oblast." He describes his brigade's successes, urges the authorities to reopen the technical school in his village "with a view to returning the young people to the village," and emphasizes the importance of restructuring.

The same newspaper, on pages 3 and 4 carries the 2,500-word statement of Trifon Pashov, "first secretary of the BCP Mikhaylovgrad Oblast Committee and delegate from Mikhaylovgrad Oblast." Pashov praises "Comrade Todor Zhivkov's report and introductory speech to this party forum," stressing that these documents "penetrate the social organism even more deeply and enrich the roads and approaches toward the revolutionary restructuring of society." He dwells on the importance of the "role, knowledge, and skill of the leading cadres and all Communists in revealing the real contradictions in the individual municipalities and labor collectives, and using them as a motive force in the active creative search and practical efforts to implement the desired changes." He describes the successes and weaknesses in Mikhaylovgrad Oblast's economic life, emphasizing the importance of "reviving the villages in the oblast." He points out the importance of the creative qualities of the individual leader, and in this context urges his listeners "to relinquish the mechanical transfer of decisions from the top to the bottom." He criticizes "discrepancies between the official positions of certain leading cadres and Communists, as expressed at meetings at which restructuring is discussed, and their unofficial behavior, which shows pessimism and the tendency to criticize everything." He urges the participants in the conference not to be indifferent toward "these manifestations of duplicity."

The same paper on page 4 carries the 3,000-word statement of Nikola Todoriev, "chairman of 'Energetika' Association and delegate from Khaskovo Oblast." Todoriev describes the importance of the decisions of the BCP Central Committee July and November Plenums and "the remarkable theoretical elaboration of Comrade Todor Zhivkov about the new model of our society." He points out the general importance of restructuring and self-management, and "the ability to assume responsibility and solve the problems of the self-managing organization." He calls for the faster introduction of the achievements of the world scientific-technical progress, as the only way of "further developing the material-technical base of socialism" in general and "the material-technical base of power supply" in particular. He emphasizes the importance of solving the country's ecological problems and stresses the importance of restructuring science within the process of restructuring education and the cadre-training system.

The same paper carries on page 5 the 3,000-word statement of Petur Tanchev, "secretary of the Bulgarian National Agrarian Union." Tanchev analyzes the importance of "perfecting relations of public ownership of production means" as an important element of restructuring. He describes the successes of the "April agrarian policy of the party," and points out the importance of "evoking the interest and initiative of the people as a principle issue of restructuring." He dwells on general cooperation between the BCP and the Bulgarian National Agrarian Union, stressing that "today we understand that as a BCP ally we have a special role and responsibility in developing agricultural in our villages." He emphasizes the importance of the meetings between Todor Zhivkov and Mikhail Gorbachev and in this context describes "the great authority of the BCP among the international workers' and communist movement."

The same paper on page 5 carries the 1,600-word statement of Mitka Terzieva, "spinner at the Vasil Kolarov Technological Combine in Gabrovo and delegate of Lovech Oblast." She describes her working successes and explains what restructuring means personally to her. In this context she points out her "deep satisfaction with and warm support for the thoughts articulated in Comrade Todor Zhivkov's introductory speech."

The same paper carries on page 6 the 3,000-word statement of Atanas Konstantinov, "chairman of Sofia Oblast Provisional People's Council and delegate from Sofia Oblast." He points out that "the time of living and working only according to instructions from above" has passed and that every municipal level must make its contribution to "developing policy as an integral part of the general line." He describes the economic successes of Sofia Oblast and stresses the contribution of the small plants. He dwells on the importance of improving "the professional qualities" of the municipal cadres, stressing that at present there is an acute lack of certain specialists, such as architects, construction engineers, and so forth. In conclusion he emphasizes that "the new functions of the people's councils can be implemented only by highly competent cadres who demonstrate high professionalism in management."

The same paper on pages 6 and 7 carries the 2,300-word statement of Nikola Kumchov, "first secretary of the BCP Devin City Municipal Committee and delegate from Plovdiv Oblast." He describes the successes of the BCP Plovdiv Oblast organization, the achievements of Devin City economic plants, and dwells on various demographic issues related to small settlements in Plovdiv Oblast. He calls for an intensification of the struggle against "manifestations of formal approach, passivity, lack of enthusiasm" and so forth and analyzes the importance of the family in "preserving and enriching the positive people's traditions, customs, and holidays."

The same paper carries on page 7 the 2,800-word statement of Lyudmil Staykov, "chairman of 'Bulgarian Cinematography' Creative-Economic Trust, twice laureate of the Dimitrov Award, and delegate from Sofia Oblast." Staykov describes the role of Bulgarian cinematography in restructuring. He stresses that "premises, which are now being applied in the economy can also be applied in intellectual 'production.'" However, he argues that this is to be done carefully, while necessarily taking into consideration the specific characteristics of the intellectual area, "without hurting its ideological and aesthetical-educational functions." The "mechanical transfer" of the concept of profitability to the area of cinematography" could inflict damage to Bulgarian cinematography, he points out. In this context he proposes "to make better use of the existing material base" as a means of cutting down expenditures.

Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian on 31 January on page 3 carries the 2,500-word statement of Toshko Todorov, "chief director of the Metal-Cutting Machines Combine and delegate from Sofia City." Todorov describes his plant's successes and difficulties, stressing the importance of finding "precise criteria for evaluating the individual worker." He describes an experiment conducted in his plan, namely the creation of "Councils on Technology and Quality," and admits that "we could not assert this form because we did not find the correct way of stimulating its activity." He expresses support for restructuring and self-management, stressing that the details of these concepts must be explained to the workers "in a language they understand, because the labor collectives have difficulty in understanding abstract economic concepts."

RABOTNICHESKO DELO on 31 January on page 4 carries the 2,700-word statement of Panteley Pachov, "first secretary of the BCP Plovdiv Oblast Committee and delegate from Plovdiv Oblast." Pachov analyzes the importance of restructuring and stresses "the invaluable merit of the BCP Central Committee, the Politburo, and Comrade Todor Zhivkov, personally" in "working out a comprehensively justified strategy and tactics and boldly

determining the character and and stages of the movement toward achieving a new qualitative state of Bulgarian society." He describes the successes of the BCP Plovdiv Oblast organization, especially in the area of agriculture. In conclusion he stresses "the Plovdiv Oblast delegates' full support for the BCP National Conference draft resolution and their determination to turn the spirit, passion, and content of restructuring into their own active position and personal fate."

The same newspaper carries on pages 4 and 5 the 2,000-word statement of Lazar Stamboliev, "member of the Bureau of the Fatherland Front National council and delegate from Sofia City." He describes the activity of the Fatherland Front in organizing the forthcoming municipal elections and contribution to implementing restructuring. In this context he stresses the Fatherland Front's role as "a public support, partner, and opponent of the municipal organs of government," and as a factor in "ensuring the active, conscious, and mass participation of the population in the socioeconomic development of the municipalities." He also describes the role of the Fatherland Front in the "patriotic and international education of the population."

The same newspaper carries on pages 5 the 2,000-word statement of Petur Donchev, "director of the Institute on Mountain Cattle Breeding and Agriculture in Troyan City, Hero of Socialist Labor, and delegate from Lovech Oblast." Donchev describes the activity of his plant and the introduction of the achievements of scientific-technical progress. He stresses difficulties in introducing these achievements because of "the obsolete material-technical base." He emphasizes the importance of the agricultural brigade as a "new type of production and labor organization."

The same newspaper carries on page 6 the statement of Sonya Ranova, "secretary of the primary party organization at the Burgas City Institute on Ventilation and Purifying Equipment and delegate from Burgas Oblast." Ranova describes the successes of her plant and points out various difficulties related to "insufficient development of the elementary base in the area of electronics," the "law level of automation," the "extremely inadequate laboratory-experiment equipment," and so forth. She expresses the hope that "the newly adopted package of normative documents will facilitate the solution of these problems."

The same newspaper carries on page 6 the statement of Petur Anastasov, "director of the Khristo Danov State Publishing House in Plovdiv and delegate from Plovdiv Oblast." In describing his publishing house's activities he points out that "the evaluations of the issues of intellectual activity, expressed according to the BCP April innovating line in Comrade Todor Zhivkov's introductory speech, inspire the figures in the sphere of culture to make an increasing contribution to the cause of restructuring." He analyzes the need to "conduct an organizational restructuring of Bulgarian literature." In this context he describes the type of books needed by the Bulgarian readers.

The paper in Bulgarian on 1 February on page 3 carries the 2,800-word statement of Milen Nikolov, "secretary of the Dimitrov Komsomol Central Committee and guest from Sofia City at the BCP National Conference." He describes the activity of the Komsomol under the conditions of restructuring, stressing that "The July concept posed to the Komsomol the task of turning into a new type of organization and an integral part of the self-managing society." He emphasizes the importance of teaching the youth the importance of restructuring and laments "the slow change of the Komsomol activity's approach, style, and labor organization." He calls for "the development of youth initiative and creativity," and describes the youth participation in production.

The same paper carries on page 3 the 2,800-word statement of Krustyu Stanilov, "chairman of the 'Transportation, Agricultural, and Construction Equipment' Association and delegate from Sofia Oblast." Stanilov describes the activity of his association and points out that "in recent years the pace of development has significantly slowed down." He calls for "decisive measures within a broad new concept of development until the year 2005" as a means of solving the problems. He describes the "forming of a new attitude to the socialist property in the labor collectives," "the training of highly qualified cadres," and "developing competition among socialist producers" as decisive factors in "implementing the urgent tasks of improving the technological level and the intellectual character of production."

RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian on 1 February on page 4 carries the 1,400-word statement of Mityo Kunev, "chairman of the 'Vacuum Technologies' Economic Trust in Ruse and delegate from Razgrad Oblast." Kunev describes his plant's successes, which he says, are a result of increased efficiency and quality of production and the introduction of new technologies. In this context he dwells on his plant's cooperation with similar enterprises in the USSR and the GDR, stressing that this cooperation contributes to the "'mutual opening' of the socialist countries." He stresses the importance of "expanding human contacts and free creative contacts" as important preconditions in improving his plant's ability to compete in the international market.

The same newspaper carries on page 4 the 3,000-word statement of Andon Traykov, "secretary of the Central Council of the Bulgarian Trade Unions and delegate from Lovech Oblast." Traykov describes the contribution of restructuring to "forming a new type of human social behavior," and stresses that "turning man into a decisive factor and moving force of restructuring is the main field of practical activity." He emphasizes the importance of self-management and the application of

the new Labor Code. He describes the process of restructuring the trade union basic organizations, and says; "We strive to construct the activity of the trade union organs on the needs, interest, and problems of the people and the collectives, by directly bringing these needs, interest, and problems to the appropriate organs through authorized representatives."

The same newspaper carries on pages 4 and 5 the 2,200-word statement of Ivan Velinov, "first secretary of the party committee of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and delegate from Sofia Oblast." He describes the activity of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, stressing cooperation with the USSR Academy of Sciences. He points out the importance of "restructuring and improving the scientific research's forecasting and planning." He describes scientific forecasting and planning as "programs of action," and as such he emphasizes their importance in restructuring. Velinov dwells on the importance of basing science on self-managing and coordinating the results of scientific research in various areas. He describes the benefit of combining the knowledge and experience of older cadres with the dynamic qualities of the younger ones as a means of facilitating scientific restructuring.

The same newspaper carries on page 5 the 2,500-word statement of Georgi Pankov, "Bulgarian ambassador to the USSR and delegate of the united BCP organization in the USSR." Pankov describes restructuring in the USSR and stresses that "while restructuring is successfully developing in the USSR it is still encountering and overcoming many difficulties, obstacles, and barriers, which are connected with inertia and a conservative approach, and the need to get rid of bureaucratic-administrative methods of directing the economy and other spheres in an administrative manner." Further on he describes Bulgarian-USSR economic and scientific cooperation and stresses the importance of the meetings between Todor Zhivkov and Mikhail Gorbachev. In this context he also describes the role of the Bulgarian Embassy in Moscow in "creating preconditions for developing direct relations between USSR and Bulgarian economic organizations and implementing new and effective forms of cooperation."

The same paper carries on page 5 the 1,600-word statement of Ivan Bakalov, "electrician at Sofia 'Control-Welding Works' Plant's Development and Application Shop, innovator, and delegate from Sofia City." Bakalov describes his plants' successes and problems, and lists among the later the need of modern equipment, improving the competition ability of the plant, and "educating the workers in a spirit of loyalty to their plant." He proposes to create "commissions in the primary party organizations, which will serve as annual forums of self-report and evaluation of the Communists, so that those who are unworthy of being party members could immediately be expelled."

The paper carries on page 6 the 2,400-word statement of Vasil Mruchkov, "chief prosecutor of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and delegate from Khaskovo Oblast." Mruchkov describes the need to reform the legal system by strengthening the role of the Bulgarian Constitution and especially its supremacy over various departmental decrees of the ministries. He describes the "struggle against negative phenomena" and the successes in this area. In discussing the efficiency of the legal process in Bulgaria he says: "Despite our successes we are not satisfied with the quality and pace of the investigation and court review of cases. In many cases the prosecutors' control over the cases continues to be formal and office-oriented. Our penalty policy suffers from inconsistency: sometimes it is liberal, and sometimes more strict. Justice still has not become a lasting, consistent, and essential characteristic. Some of our judicial cadres engaged in jurisprudence still lack professional knowledge and courage to resist influences that are alien to the dispensation of justice." In conclusion he describes the importance of developing glasnost in the activity of the legal organs.

The same newspaper carries on page 6 the 2,000-word statement of Stefka Mileva, "director of the Ernst Thaelmann School in Lovech, delegate from Lovech Oblast." Mileva describes the importance of the school reform as a part of restructuring. She criticizes "the formal approach" in the professional training of the young generation, and urges the application of the system of self-management in Bulgarian schools. Mileva stresses the importance of education, pointing out that "being a student is the first profession of man, and it continues throughout life. Whatever he becomes, man learns throughout his life. Those who do not accept the idea of constantly enriching their knowledge and skill will become a barrier to his country's development."

Leaders' Appearances 21 Jan-6 Feb

AU0908845 [Editorial Report] Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian in its newcasts, the Sofia press, and BTA during the 24 January through 6 February monitoring period report the following public appearances of Bulgarian leaders (sourceline of each report given in parentheses):

Todor Zhivkov gave a luncheon in Sofia on 26 Jan for the visiting Colombian foreign minister, which was attended by Milko Balev, Petur Mladenov, and Andrey Lukanov. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 26 Jan 88)

The following leaders attended the opening day of the BCP National Conference in Sofia on 28 January: Todor Zhivkov, Georgi Atanasov, Grisha Filipov, Dobri Dzhurov, Yordan Yotov, Milko Balev, Ognyan Doynov, Pencho Kubadinski, Petur Mladenov, Petur Tanchev,

Stanko Todorov, Chudomir Aleksandrov, Andrey Lukanov, Georgi Yordanov, Grigor Stoichkov, Dimitur Stoyanov, Petur Dyulgerov, Stoyan Markov, Nacho Papazov, Vasil Tsanov, Dimitur Stanishev, Emil Khristov, and Stoyan Mikhaylov. (Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 29 Jan 88 p 1)

Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the State Council, made a speech at a plenum of the BCP Central Committee held in Sofia on 24 January to decide the agenda for the 28 January national party conference. (Sofia BTA in English 1600 GMT 24 Jan 88) In Sofia on 26 January he received the visiting Colombian foreign minister, Julio Londono Paredes, (Sofia BTA in English 1342 GMT 26 Jan 88) and gave a luncheon in his honor. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 26 Jan 88) He delivered an introductory speech at the BCP National Conference in Sofia on 28 January (Sofia BTA in English 0733 GMT 29 Jan 88) and a closing speech on 29 January. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1337 GMT 29 Jan 88) In Sofia on 4 February he received U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead. (Sofia BTA in English 1406 GMT 4 Feb 88) In Sofia on the same day he also spoke at a plenum of the Fatherland Front National Council on the forthcoming local elections. (Sofia BTA in English 1349 GMT 4 Feb 88)

Georgi Atanasov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received the visiting Colombian foreign minister, Paredes, in Sofia on 26 January. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 26 Jan 88) He received the Greek and SFRY ambassadors in Sofia on 27 January. (Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 28 Jan 88 p 8)

Chudomir Aleksandrov, Politburo member and secretary of the BCP Central Committee, spoke in Sofia on 29 January at the BCP National Conference (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 0726 GMT 29 Jan 88) and also gave a press conference in Sofia on the same day. (Sofia BTA in English 1956 GMT 29 Jan 88) Army General Dobri Dzhurov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and minister of national defense, presented awards to outstanding military athletes in Sofia's Central People's Army Club on 4 February. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 4 Feb 88)

Ognyan Doynov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo, attended the opening in Sofia on 21 January of a new plant for the manufacture of selenium copier drums. (Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 22 Jan 88 p 2) In Sofia on 26 January he attended a national day reception at the Indian Embassy. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2030 GMT 26 Jan 88) He gave a press conference in Sofia on 29 January on the role of the new economic associations. (Sofia BTA in English 1408 GMT 29 Jan 88)

Grisha Filipov, Politburo member and secretary of the BCP Central Committee, met with a delegation from the Central Committee of the Mozambique Liberation Front during its visit from 10 through 22 January. (Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 22 Jan 88 p 8)

Pencho Kubadinski, member of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the Fatherland Front National Council, also spoke at the Fatherland Front National Council plenum in Sofia on 4 February. (Sofia BTA in English 1349 GMT 4 Feb 88)

Petur Mladenov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and minister of foreign affairs, met the visiting Colombian foreign minister, Julio Londono Paredes, on his arrival at Sofia Airport on 25 January, and started talks with him. (Sofia BTA in English 1833 GMT 25 Jan 88) On the same day he gave a dinner in honor of Paredes in Sofia's Vitosha-New Otani. Hotel (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2030 GMT 25 Jan 88) In Sofia on 26 January he continued his talks with Paredes (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 26 Jan 88) and saw Paredes off at Sofia Airport on 27 January. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 27 Jan 88) He held talks in Sofia with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Whitehead during the latter's visit from 3-5 February. (Sofia BTA in English 0843 GMT 5 Feb 88)

Yordan Yotov, Politburo member and secretary of the BCP Central Committee, gave a press conference on the BCP National Conference in Sofia on 27 January. (Sofia BTA in English 1857 GMT 27 Jan 88) He made a speech at the conference on 29 January. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1323 GMT 29 Jan 88)

Petur Dyulgerov, candidate member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Central Council of Bulgarian Trade Unions, took part in a press conference in Sofia on 30 January on the BCP National Conference (Sofia BTA in English 1651 GMT 30 Jan 88)

Andrey Lukanov, candidate member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and minister of foreign economic relations, also took part in the 30 January press conference in Sofia. (Sofia BTA in English 1651 GMT 30 Jan 88) On 1 February he left for Moscow to take part in the CEMA executive committee session. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1400 GMT 1 Feb 88) He had talks with U.S. Secretary of state John Whitehead during his visit from 3-5 February. (Sofia BTA in English 0843 GMT 5 Feb 88)

Grigor Stoichkov, candidate member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo, delivered a report in Sofia on 22 January at a national conference on the earthquake repair work in Strazhitsa and Popovo. (Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 23 Jan 88 pp 1, 6) He spoke at the BCP National Conference in Sofia on 28 January (Sofia BTA in English 2107 GMT 28 Jan 88) And (Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 31 Jan 88 p 3).

Georgi Yordanov, candidate member of the BCP Central Committee and minister of culture, science, and education, also attended the national day reception at the Indian Embassy in Sofia on 26 January. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2030 GMT 26 Jan 88) On 4 February he arrived in Moscow at the head of a delegation to open the Bulgarian cultural center there, (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2030 GMT 4 Feb 88) and made a speech in Moscow at the ceremony opening the center on 5 February. (Sofia BTA in English 2005 GMT 5 Feb 88)

Emil Khristov, secretary of the BCP Central Committee, also took p in the 30 January press conference in Sofia. (Sofia BTA in English 1651 GMT 30 Jan 88).

Dimitur Stanishev, secretary of the BCP Central Committee, also me with the Frelimo delegation that visited Bulgaria 10-22 January. (Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 22 Jan 88 p 8)

Vasil Tsanov, secretary of the BCP Committee, took part in a meeting of the Central Council of the National Agro-Industrial Union Association in Sofia on 25 January. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 25 Jan 88) On 5 February he attended a festive meeting in Sofia's Lyudmila Zhivkova People's Palace of Culture to mark the Day of the Land and Fertility. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 5 Feb 88)

Press Release on Jakes Visit to Poland

AU101437 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak
9 Feb 88 p 1

["Press Release on Milos Jakes' Visit to the PPR"]

[Text] Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium, paid a friendly working visit to the PPR on 8 February 1988 at the invitation of Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR and chairman of the PPR State Council.

During their talks, which were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, the leading representatives of the two parties briefed one another on the topical issues and main problems of the two states' socialist construction, as well as on the tasks arising from the resolutions of the 10th PZPR and the 17th CPCZ Congresses. They paid exceptional attention to the process of restructuring, introduction of economic reforms, and the development of socialist democracy. The two sides expressed the conviction that the creative measures which are being adopted in the USSR and the other socialist states serve to strengthen socialism, improve people's living and working conditions, and ensure world peace.

The two leading representatives highly valued the close and fruitful cooperation between the PZPR and the CPCZ, filled with mutual trust, which—in the spirit of the ideas of socialist internationalism—constitutes a solid foundation for the further development of comprehensive relations between the two states and nations.

Milos Jakes and Wojciech Jaruzelski noted with satisfaction that the cooperation between parliaments, government institutions, political and social organizations, information and propaganda media, as well as between the two states' cultural and scientific circles continues to systematically expand.

They expressed full support for the further development of all forms of contacts which contribute to drawing closer together and deepening the friendship of our nations, Poles, Czechs, and Slovaks, who since time immemorial have been linguistically and culturally close neighbors. They favored, in particular, the development of direct relations between administrative bodies, social organizations, creative unions, enterprises, schools, and other institutions. They agreed that in order to strengthen the ties uniting the two countries, it is necessary to pay special attention to young people getting to know one another even better. In this sense they highly valued the political, educational, and cognitive [poznavaci] value of the exchange of children and young people during school holidays. They expressed the conviction that the cooperation among youth has to be given a qualitatively new framework, and the specific content and forms of cooperation when deepening the international education and developing contacts of children and youth have to be determined. They stressed the need for the further expansion and even more effective utilization of various forms of friendship [druzobne] contacts.

Milos Jakes and Wojciech Jaruzelski assessed the results of economic cooperation, which is being consistently realized in the spirit of the long-term program for the development of economic and scientific-technical cooperation through the year 2000. They noted in agreement that in order to maintain the fast pace of its upsurge, it is necessary to strive for a substantial acceleration of the development of higher and more effective forms of collaboration—of cooperation and specialization, realization of joint investment programs, and establishment of joint ventures. This would make it possible to achieve concrete joint solutions in science, technology, and production in accordance with the needs of the two states.

They discussed issues concerning the perfection of CEMA's activity, of all instruments of the socialist states' multilateral cooperation.

The first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and the general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee exchanged views on key issues of international politics. They affirmed that the results of the meeting between M. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Washington and, in particular, the signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles have created important prerequisites for the consolidation of the positive changes in the international situation, above all in the relations between East and West. Thanks to the constructive initiatives of the Soviet Union, a realistic hope has ensued for a heightened security of our continent, for the growth of international trust, for the paving of a road toward the further limitation of the arms buildup, for disarmament, and for going over to an equal, mutually advantageous cooperation among states.

They expressed consternation over voices from the West which call for the potential of conventional weapons and tactical nuclear weapons to be boosted as compensation for the nuclear missiles destined to be scrapped. They noted that questions of security must be resolved through talks and not through "augmentation" ["dozbrojovani"], or through a continued arms race, including the endeavor to transfer it into space. In this connection they pointed out the significance of the endeavor of the USSR and the other socialist countries for the implementation of the conclusions of the session of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact member states held in Berlin in 1987. They briefed one another on the PPR's and the CSSR's steps aimed at the practical implementation of initiatives oriented toward the strengthening of European security through reducing the arms buildup and increasing trust in central Europe,

including the establishment of zones without nuclear and chemical weapons. They affirmed that the two states will closely cooperate in the further realization of these initiatives.

They stressed that the fundamental condition of peace, security, and cooperation in Europe is unconditional recognition of the final character of borders, the cessation of all attempts to change them and cast doubt on them, as well as full respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states in Europe in their present borders.

The friendly working visit by Milos Jakes to the PPR was marked by full unanimity of views on all issues discussed.

The general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee invited the first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee to pay a visit to Czechoslovakia. The invitation was accepted with satisfaction.

Jakes Greets Jaruzelski

AU101429 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 9 Feb 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Telegram From Aboard the Plane"]

[Text] Upon leaving the PPR [8 February] by air, Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, sent a telegram to Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee.

In it he expressed sincere thanks to the PZPR Central Committee and to Wojciech Jaruzelski personally for the reception and creation of a comradely atmosphere for mutual deliberations. He appreciated the fact that the meeting was held in the spirit of full unanimity of views, understanding, and determination to continue comprehensively developing the relations between the two fraternal parties and states.

I wish the PZPR, the people of the fraternal PPR, and you personally further successes in the fulfillment of the program of socialist construction, the general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee states in his telegram.

Bilak Receives RCP's Nicolae Mihai

LD102148 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1730 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Vasil Bilak, member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, today received Nicolae Mihai, deputy departmental chief of the RCP Central Committee. In a comradely conversation, they discussed some questions of international politics. They also expressed the conviction that agreeing on the plan of contacts between the two communist parties for the years 1988-89 will contribute toward further deepening mutual cooperation.

Further Reportage on Whitehead's Visit

Arrives in Bratislava, Prague

AU101602 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 8 Feb 88 p 2

[CTK report: "Visiting U.S. Guest"]

[Text] Bratislava/Prague—U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead arrived for a visit to Czechoslovakia by air on Saturday [6 February].

He was welcomed at Bratislava Airport by Evzen Vacek, CSSR deputy minister of foreign affairs, and other representatives. Julian M. Niemczyk, U.S. ambassador to the CSSR, was also present.

In Bratislava, John Whitehead was received by Slovak Premier Peter Colotka, who informed him on the development of Slovakia, noted some positive results of CSSR-U.S. cooperation, and voiced the conviction that his visit will contribute to the development of Czechoslovak-American dialogue.

J. Whitehead stressed that the United States is interested in developing relations between the two states. His visit to Czechoslovakia pursues this objective.

J. Whitehead arrived in Prague on Sunday [7 February].

Speaks on MFN Status

LD092148 Prague International Service in Czech 1900 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] [Announcer] Earlier this week, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead was in Czechoslovakia. His visit was a part of his East European trip in connection with the State Department's so-called differentiated policy on different socialist countries. At Prague airport before his departure, Deputy Secretary Whitehead was asked whether the United States is prepared to grant Czechoslovakia Most Favored Nation trading status:

[Begin Whitehead recording in English fading to Czech translation] We did discuss the Most Favored Nation clause. It is clear now that Czechoslovakia would not qualify as yet under our law. The law which established the Most Favored Nation system provides that the country must have made progress on its emigration policy, and Czechoslovakia as yet does not qualify with its emigration policy. Its policy is too rigid for us to qualify for the MFN treatment. [end recording]

[Announcer] Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead: What remains to be said in light of the following facts and figures? [passage indistinct]

Finally, another 14 cases are being processed and, as Radio Prague has been told, nothing will prevent the favorable assessment of their application to emigrate to the United States. This is the situation.

Summary of Visit

AU101512 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 9 Feb 88 p 1

[CTK report: "On CSSR-U.S. Relations"]

[Text] Prague—CSSR President Gustav Husak received U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead at Prague Castle on Monday [8 February].

During a talk attention was paid to the development of bilateral relations and some issues of the international situation. It was stated with satisfaction that despite the existing differences of opinion, relations between Czechoslovakia and the United States have revived of late. The expression of their improvement is the numerous meetings between the two countries' representatives and the consultations on various levels which create conditions for the one to get to know each other better and for understanding. The usefulness of a continuing dialogue and of seeking roads leading to the development of mutual economic relations was pointed out.

When exchanging views on the international situation, the two representatives welcomed the treaty on the elimination of two classes of nuclear weapons as a historic milestone in East-West relations. At the same time the hope was expressed that the disarmament process will continue to develop further.

The reception was attended by Bohuslav Chnoupek, CSSR minister of foreign affairs, and Frantisek Salda, head of the chancellery of the CSSR president. Julian Niemczyk, U.S. ambassador to the CSSR, was present.

John Whitehead was received by Vasil Bilak, member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, the same day. During a discussion the two representatives assessed the possibility of developing relations between the CSSR and the United States. They also exchanged views on the current international situation, especially in connection with the recently signed Treaty on the Elimination of U.S. and USSR Intermediate- and Shorter-Range missiles. They noted in agreement that an open and equal dialogue is necessary in the interest of improving mutual relations.

The reception was attended by Radoslav Klein, deputy head of a CPCZ Central Committee department; Evzen Vacek, CSSR deputy minister of foreign affairs; and Julian Niemczyk, U.S. ambassador to the CSSR.

John Whitehead was also received by Bohuslav Chnoupek ths same day.

John Whitehead ended his visit to Czechoslovakia the same day and left for Brussels.

Ethiopian Party Official Pays Working Visit

Meets Polednik

AU101434 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 9 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Prague (CTK)—CPCZ Central Committee Secretary Jindrich Polednik met Shewandagn Belete, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia, who is currently paying a working visit to the CSSR at the invitation of the CPCZ Central Committee.

The two comrades informed one another about the political systems of their countries and ways to improve them, and about the nationality policy of their two parties.

Received by Bilak

LD111315 Prague CTK In English 1230 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Prague Feb 11 (CTK)—Member of the Presidium and Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee Vasil Bilak held talks here today with Politburo alternate member and secretary of the Ethiopian Workers Party Central Committee Shewandagn Belete.

They dealt with the current situation in Europe and Africa and agreed on further steps towards the strengthening of cooperation between their parties in the interest of unity of progressive and peace-loving forces in the world.

Syrian Paper Interviews Vasil Bilak

PM111051 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 27 Jan 88 p 3

[Interview with Vasil Bilak, member of the Presidium and secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party (CPCZ) Central Committee, by Muhammad Kanayisi; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] AL-BA'TH: How would you assess Syrian-Czechoslovak relations, especially cooperation between the two friendly parties, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the CPCZ?

[Bilak] Relations between our two countries are fraternal and amicable; they are also strong relations based on mutual understanding. As far as we are concerned, Syria is a country close to our heart, and we support and back its policy. In my opinion, the relations between our two parties are the warmest of relations. Our reciprocal relations could become an example to be emulated. Despite the fact that our two social systems do not fully correspond, our cooperation is very strong and very

good. I would like to express my thanks through your newspaper for the invitation I was given by your party to visit Syria and to wish your party and people success and happiness.

AL-BA'TH: Our people's uprising in the occupied Arab territories against the Israeli enemy has entered its 2d month. How does Czechoslovakia view the uprising? And what, in your opinion, would be the best solutions for the just treatment of the people of Palestine and for an end to the continuous state of tension in the region which from time to time threatens international security and peace as a result of the continuous aggression against the Arabs?

[Bilak] Czechoslovakia regards the uprising as proof that the Palestinian people can no longer accept Israel's violent and tyrannical policy, the policy of extermination, and the violations which ride roughshod over all the principles and fundamentals of human rights.

We have seen how necessary and essential it is for the Palestinian people to be given the opportunity to organize their lives according to their own perception and not according to diktat. We also consider it the Palestinian people's right to determine their own way of life, to return to their lands, and to put an end to the crime being perpetrated against them. We believe that it is necessary for an international conference to be convened with the attendance of all sides, including the representatives of the Palestinian people, and that all the rights of the Palestinians must be recognized without Israeli restrictions.

Israel's policy toward the Palestinian people is shortsighted. Sooner or later the matter must be resolved. The repressive Israeli policy which is causing great pain and hardship will only receive curses. Establishing peace in the Middle East is essential and needs a great deal of effort.

AL-BA'TH: How do you view the U.S. Administration's repeated assertions that it is continuing to implement the Star Wars program. In your opinion, does the implementation of this program or the new U.S. approach affect the agreement signed by Comrade Gorbachev and U.S. President Reagan at the beginning of December?

[Bilak] I imagine that in this regard Comrade Gorbachev has given the most precise assertion that the policy followed by America is an absurd policy which only benefits the military monopolies and harms peace and mutual understanding.

History has demonstrated that all the U.S. expectations and fanciful ideas that its policy would succeed in compelling the Soviet Union to make concessions are illusory and absurd. The danger stems from the fact that even if research is restricted to the laboratories there will always be a great temptation for these weapons to be tested. Such was the case with the first nuclear bomb. The bomb was originally produced in the laboratories and then the nuclear testing began. Eventually the nuclear bomb was tested on people at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The danger lies as I mentioned in the fact that the experiment or the Star Wars program will provide a great temptation. We truly hope that there will emerge a more reasonable U.S. policy which realizes that this lethal program should be halted. All the money allocated to this absurd project ought to be devoted to matters which assist mankind in eliminating many current problems, which would definitely promote life rather than death. [passage omitted]

General Assembly Group Tours Belgium

AU101556 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 9 Feb 88 p 1

[CTK report: "Czechoslovak Deputies Meet EEC Representatives"]

[Text] Brussels (CTK correspondent)—A group of deputies of the CSSR General Assembly headed by its First Deputy Chairman Jan Marko, which is in Brussels at the invitation of the European Parliament, met with representatives of an EEC Commission on Monday [8 February]. They exchanged views on the development of economic relations and, above all, on the possibility of expanding trade relations between the CSSR and the EEC.

The delegation of the CSSR Federal Assembly also paid a visit to the chemical plant Union Chimique Belge in Braine l'Alleud. It inspected the operations of the enterprise and acquainted itself with the organization and methods of work at its research center.

The Czechoslovak deputies left for Strasbourg in the afternoon, where they will hold talks with some deputies of groups represented in the European Parliament.

National Front CC Supports Foreign Policy

LD102144 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1600 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] The Czechoslovak National Front Central Committee Presidium today expressed full agreement with the focus of our foreign policy this year. Michal Stefanak, member of the CPCZ Central Committee and head of the Central Committee's department of international politics, expounded on this at the discussions in Prague.

The participants in the discussion stressed that this policy corresponds to the peaceful life and aspirations of all our citizens. The Presidium went on to assess the work so far and approved further directions of the activity of the Czechoslovak Peace Committee, the Czechoslovak Committee for European Security and Cooperation, and the Committee of Solidarity with the Peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. It stressed their main role in winning over the broad international public in support of the peace policy and spoke in favor

of further improving cooperation with similar committees from the socialist countries and for an open dialogue with all those who sincerely work in the interest of the basic right of man for a life in peace.

Polednik News Conference

LD102222 Prague CTK in English
1818 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Prague Feb 10 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak National Front must contribute to a further development of socialist democracy and broader participation of the people in management and public affairs, secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee Jindrich Polednik stressed at a press conference here today.

He said that measures taken at a recent joint session of the Czech, Slovak and federal National Front Central Committees are aimed at mobilizing people and promoting their creative abilities. On the basis of the National Front, the Czechoslovak Communist Party, members of other political parties and people not affiliated to any party must look for a solution to concrete tasks connected with the development of the socialist communist and satisfaction of the needs of the people, and concentrate on their fulfillment.

The past few years were marked by a directive management which logically produced bureaucracy impeding further development. The people have learned to rely on instructions from above and their passivity and indifference have grown, Jindrich Polednik continued.

Restructuring requires the activation of the political system, development of socialist autonomy, greater openness of policy and better all-round information. The need for further development of socialist democracy means higher and often new demands on the position and activities of the voluntary union of political parties, social and interest organizations in the framework of the National Front which is today a stable popular basis of Czechoslovakia's political system under the leadership of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, Jindrich Polednik underlined.

Fojtik Addresses TV Editors

LD092239 Prague Television Service in Czech
1830 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Staffers of the central editorial office of television news prepared the program which you are now watching as well as a number of other programs.

At their annual party meeting, the communists from this editorial office spoke about the results of their work and in particular abut current tasks: the need to speedily communicate to television viewers information from home and abroad, to describe in dispatches the process of restructuring in our society, to implement the principle of general information by well researched and detailed programs.

At this session Comrade Jan Fojtik [secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee] praised the work of television reporting which daily enters into contact with the general public. He appealed to the workers of the editorial office to act firmly everywhere where there is an attempt to obscure the information demanded by viewers.

In connection with the restructuring of our society's life he described as a key task the need to act against braking mechanisms, to present on the television screens those people who contribute with their attitude and their working results to the implementation of new tasks.

USSR Ratification of Rarotonga Treaty Welcomed

LD031552 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1301 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 3 Feb (Adn)—The GDR welcomes the ratification at the end of January by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium of supplementary protocols II and III to the treaty on the nuclear weapon-free zone in the South Pacific (Rarotonga Treaty). Ambassador Wolfgang Meyer, spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, stated this to ADN today.

The USSR, which signed these protocols in December 1986 as the first of the five nuclear powers to do so, thus guarantees 15 South Pacific states that it will not violate the status of the zone, not use any nuclear weapons against parties to the treaty or threaten to use them, and not to carry out any nuclear tests in this zone.

In this connection, the spokesman noted that the GDR, which for its part is actively striving together with the CSSR for the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free corridor in central Europe, has repeatedly expressed its readiness to promote the establishment of nuclear weapon-free zones in other parts of the world.

It regards them as important measures for preventing a nuclear inferno, as is Erich Honecker's initiative calling for the holding this year of an international meeting of prominent personalities and political movements supporting the establishment of nuclear weapon-free zones.

The spokesman also stressed that the GDR regarded the treaty on a nuclear weapon-free zone in the South Pacific, protocols II And III of which also have been signed by the PRC, as an important regional contribution by the states of the South Pacific forum to the safeguarding of peace.

It is a suitable means of promoting the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and a halt to nuclear weapons tests, and also of restricting nuclear deployment zones. The GDR also expresses its expectation that the nuclear powers of the United States, Britain, and France also will sign the protocols in the interests of the peoples of the South Pacific.

Honecker Receives West Berlin Mayor

LD110941 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0903 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 11 Feb (ADN)—Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and GDR State Council Chairman, this morning received for a talk Eberhard Diepgen, governing mayor of Berlin (West). The meeting is taking place at Schloss Niederschoenhausen.

Honecker Sends Condolences on FRG Plane Crash

LD091833 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1400 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 9 Feb (ADN)—Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR Council of State, has conveyed his deepest sympathy to FRG Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl on the tragic plane accident near Duesseldorf.

Honecker Receives Algerian Official

LD101559 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1038 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 10 Feb (ADN)—Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and GDR State Council chairman, on Wednesday received Rabah Bitat, president of the National People's Assembly of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, for a friendly talk.

Parliamentary President Rabah Bitat conveved cordial greetings from Algerian head of state President Chadli Bendjedid, which were reciprocated by Erich Honecker. The interlocutors paid tribute to the increased dynamic development in recent years, particularly following Erich Honecker's official friendship visit to Algeria, in the traditionally friendly relations between the two states. They agreed that favorable opportunities exist for the further expansion of cooperation in all areas.

Erich Honecker informed his guest about the good results in the successful shaping of the developed socialist society in the GDR, which are being achieved through the common work, industry, and creativity of the people.

The interlocutors were agreed in noting that the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range Missiles between the USSR and the United States is a historic milestone toward a nuclear-free world. Its realization is an encouraging victory for all forces of reason and realism.

The GDR regards a 50 percent reduction in strategic offensive weapons, a ban on chemical weapons, and an end to nuclear tests as an urgent task. The arms race must not be expanded to other areas such as space; the disarmament process must be made irreversible.

In this connection Erich Honecker recalled the GDR's constructive contribution to the coming about of the intermediate-range missile agreement and reaffirmed its firm wish to do everything for its implementation. In his letter to Chancellor Kohl he submitted ideas as to how the two German states could contribute to disarmament and detente in Europe. Together with the CSSR, the GDR has submitted proposals for the creation of a nuclear-free corridor and a chemical weapon-free zone.

Erich Honecker informed his guest about the agreement reached with the USSR to dismantle the shorter-range missiles deployed on the territory of the GDR earlier than originally envisaged.

The interlocutors stressed the need to solve regional conflicts by peaceful means. They declared their solidarity and support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people to implement their national rights and they condemned the Israeli terror in the occupied areas. They called for the soonest possible convening of an international Near East conference.

Both sides expressed their concerna bout current developments in the Gulf region. Calm, restraint, and readiness for compromise from all those involved are required in order to ease the situation, for which UN Security Council Resolution 598 offers a good basis.

Erich Honecker and Rabah Bitat strongly condemned the escalation of force and terror by the apartheid regime in South Africa and its aggression toward the independent states of the region, and particularly the continuing military intervention of the South African Armed Forces.

The Algerian parliamentary president spoke about the policy of the FLN [National Liberation Front] Party, aimed at social progress and at increasing the prosperity of the people, and the work of the National People's Assembly of Algeria. Rabah Bitat outlined his country's contribution toward improving the international climate and described Algerian initiatives aimed at promoting peaceful coexistence and good-neighborliness in the Mediterranean region.

Horst Sindermann, presidnt of the GDR People's Chamber, was present for the talk.

Honecker Interviewed on Ties With SFRY

LD091755 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1019 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 9 Feb (ADN)—Erich Honecker, SED Central Committee general secretary and Council of State chairman, gave the weekly paper "KOMUNIST," the LCY organ, an interview on basic aspects of the GDR's socioeconomic development, issues arising from the current situation, prospects for the international workers' movement, and the state of and prospects for furthering relations between the GDR and the SFRY.

During the meeting today with Vitomir Sudarski, director of the "KOMUNIST" publishing house, held in the SED Central Committee building, Erich Honecker said the GDR was shaping developed socialist society in accordance with its long-term concept, which had been further developed through creative application since the early seventies to its concrete historical and national conditions. It had always seen its main task as speeding up scientific and technical progress and stepping up economic performance to secure the continuous improvement of living and working conditions for the workers.

Asked about problems and tasks involving the international workers' movement, Erich Honecker said that securing peace was the highest priority goal for action by the whole workers' movement, regardless of which standpoint its parties and organizations took on individual issues in their countries. Life had confirmed in a relatively short period of time that it was not only necessary but also possible to find a common language and hold a constructive dialogue on issues concerning the struggle for peace and social progress.

Further on in the interview, Erich Honecker paid tribute to continuous and successful development of bilateral relations between the GDR and SFRY. The further development of comprehensive contacts and multilateral cooperation was in the interests of both countries and served the common cause of peace and socialism. Cooperation between the SED and the LCY will continue to expand and be enriched as a determining factor in relations as a whole.

At the end of the meeting, Director Sudarski presented Erich Honecker with an antiwar picture by one of Yugoslavia's best known artists and cartoonists, Zoran Jovanovic.

PRC Education Delegation Arrives

LD090014 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1446 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 8 Feb (ADN)—He Dongchang, first deputy chairman of the PRC National Academic Degrees Commission, arrived today in the GDR accompanied by other leading employees of the Chinese education system at the invitation of Margot Honecker, GDR Minister for National Education. He was given a warm welcome at Berlin's Schoenefeld airport by Margot Honecker. He Dongchang is reciprocating the visits by the GDR minister of national education, minister for higher and vocational education, and the state secretary for vocational training to the PRC. During his weeklong visit to the GDR, he will hold talks on the development of the education system and the further shaping of cooperation in this areas as well as visiting educational institutions, vocational training institutions, and institutions of higher and vocational education.

PLO's 'Arafat Receives FDJ Delegation

AU101313 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 8 Feb 88 p 5

[Text] Tunis (ADN)—In Tunis over the weekend [6-7 February], Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, received members of an FDJ delegation as well as representatives of the youth journals JUNGE WELT, KONTAKT, and DT 64 for a cordial talk. The

delegation, which had taken part in the friendship meeting between the youth of the GDR and Tunisia, reaffirmed the solidarity of the GDR youth with the just struggle of the Palestinian people. Yasir 'Arafat expressed thanks for the support that had been given to him. He briefed the visitors on the situation in the Arab territories occupied by Israel and the powerful combat actions of the Palestinians.

Kessler Speaks at Civil Defense Gathering

AU101808 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 6-7 Feb p 3

[Speech by Army General Heinz Kessler, minister for National Defense, at the Civil Defense anniversary gathering in Berlin on 5 February: "'To Protect and Help' is a Deeply Humanist Concern"]

[Text] As members or voluntary helpers with the task "To Protect and Help," tens of thousands of men and women are implementing a deeply humanist concern of our socialist state every day. They guarantee that the people and cultural assets, the enterprises and institutions, and national property are carefully preserved and protected from damage. This was stated by Army General Heinz Kessler at the beginning of his speech at a festive event in the Berlin Volksbuehne theater.

On behalf of the party and state leadership the speaker thanked the members, civil employees and voluntary helpers for the achievements of the past 3 decades. He paid special tribute to the women who master their duties as working or learning women, as mothers and housewives and, in addition, have voluntarily taken over important tasks in leading organs and civil defense task forces.

Unselfish Efforts Deserve All Honors [subhead]

In individual pioneer work and in cooperation with the civil defense organs of the Soviet Union and the other socialist states important experiences were gained, comprehensive knowledge and manifold abilities were acquired during the past 30 years. "Those days and hours in which the women and men of civil defense helped to extinguish dangerous fires, to dam floods, to prevent production losses, and to save human lives, are vividly remembered," Heinz Kessler said.

It always was and is a point of honor for the members and helpers of civil defense to properly work and learn, as well as to achieve solid results in the training and the service for the protection of the population and the national economy. Every day, at their machine, at the milker, at the computer, in the laboratory, or in the teaching booth [unterrichts kabinett], men and women see that in the GDR it is cared for and worked for the benefit of the people, for the future of their children. Every day they see how progress in production and science is used to make life in our country more beautiful, richer, and safer—a life of peace, without economic fears.

The unselfish efforts of the women and men in civil defense deserve all honors, because our own lives, our enterprises and institutions, the residential areas for our families, for our children and veterans, our villages and towns, our fields, woods, waters are at stake, our country, which belongs to all of us, is at stake," the minister said.

One must always remember that it is the results of the policy of the workers' class party and of the socialist state aiming at the benefit of the people, the results of the creative efforts of the working people, that have to be increased and preserved. The more expert and committed we are in doing so, the better our work will prosper, the richer our society will become, the stronger socialism will become, the safer peace will be. "Thus the service in civil defense helps to prevent disasters, to guarantee security and shelter to our citizens, and to preserve social values," Army General Kessler stated.

The awareness that people can count on you, the readiness to help where help is needed, the conviction to serve a just cause—all these are qualities of exemplary citizens of our socialist state. And at the same time they are qualities which especially distinguish the members and voluntary helpers of civil defense and which have contributed to the high prestige with the population which this sector has acquired over 30 years.

High Claims on Security and Reliability [subhead]

Then the speaker turned to the requirements resulting from the decisions of the 11th Party Congress in implementing the main task in its union of economic and social policy. The aspired high, dynamic increase in performance of the national economy requires the smooth functioning of expansive and complex production plants, ramified supply systems, and sensitive traffic facilities. This is connected with higher claims on security and reliability in the production process, with a higher degree of provisions. Therefore, the responsibility of all civil defense organs is increasing. In view of the high economic targets every tenth of a percent of increase depends even more than before on order and security in the enterprises, on preventive protection against fire, damage, and catastrophes. Consequently, the expectations placed on every individual civil defense formation and all those who have to solve tasks in this sector, are further increasing.

The welfare and the security of our people, the safety of the production plants, and the fulfillment of the plans are inseparably linked and thus interdependent. Therefore, it is only logical, Heinz Kessler proceeded, that the training measures and exercises which were carried out,

took this finding into account and were aimed above all at improving preventive protection in main fields, for example, floods, forest fires, emissions of pollutants, and livestock epidemics.

A Benefit of M160 Million [subhead]

The defense minister paid tribute to the efforts of the civil defense formations which have contributed to achieving a social benefit of more than M160 million in the past 2 years by service, training, and action committees, by work in preventive protection against catastrophes and average, and with appropriate exercises and training activities.

The minister stressed: "When in all the past years civil defense met the high demands of its activity, this is because the SED has always pointed out the goals and the direction, because the protection of the people and of their material and cultural living conditions and all those who incessantly advocate this, have always been the concern of the party.

"It was the workers' class party, its members and functionaries, who taught the members and voluntary helpers of civil defense love for and loyalty to our socialist home country, humanism, and friendship with the Soviet Union, socialist patriotism and internationalism, who led the way in work and leisure time and showed by their attitude that their jobs and their functions in civil defense are their places to struggle for peace."

Heinz Kessler cordially thanked all those who help to fulfill the tasks of protecting life and property in the leading organs and task forces of civil defense, in the organization of the German Red Cross, in the voluntary fire-brigades, in water conservancy, in the postal and traffic system, in the central state organs, enterprises, and educational institutions, in residential areas, and other sectors.

We can celebrate the 30th civil defense anniversary in the spirit of important successes of the powerful peace offensive of socialism and the worldwide coalition of reason and realism that is growing stronger, Army General Kessler stressed. With the Washington summit the opportunities to enter into an entire process of continued disarmament steps, from zero-option to zero-option, have clearly improved. Now it must not be permitted that the chances that open up for the peoples, are gambled away again.

Expression of a Great Trust [subhead]

We know the strength of socialism and all other peace forces, the army general said, and we are ready to make our contribution to strengthening peace. The members and voluntary helpers of civil defense actively support this policy of the party and state leadership aiming at securing peace, by contributing to the implementation of the main task, and thus to strengthening socialism.

"But we also know: As long as the socialist home country and the peaceful work of our people are threatened by war, to strengthen socialism also means to strengthen its defense capacity," Army General Heinz Kessler said.

The party and state leadership puts great trust in civil defense, the speaker said, and expressed the conviction that all members and voluntary helpers, all formations and staffs, will honorably contribute to energetically breathing further life into the decisions of the 11th SED Congress, to strengthening socialism, and to making peace more secure.

Council of Ministers Commemorates Brecht Birth

Honecker Attends Ceremony

LD102126 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1211 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 10 Feb (ADN)—A ceremony of the GDR Council of Ministers to mark the 90th anniversary of the birth of Bertolt Brecht was held in Berlin today. Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR Council of State, was warmly welcomed in the Berliner Ensemble theater to this high point of the national honoring of Brecht in the GDR. Other party and state leaders also took part in the event. Minister of Culture Dr Hans-Joachim Hoffmann made a speech.

Many representatives of intellectual life at home and abroad responded to the invitation, including participants in the international Brecht symposium, for which guests from over 50 countries and from West Berlin are in the GDR. Hoffmann's speech was followed by a program of works by the great German poet and dramatist and compositions by Weill, Eisler, Dessau, Matthus, and Hosalla. The performance was by members of the Berliner Ensemble, which Brecht founded.

Before the ceremony began the poet and dramatist was commemorated at the Dorotheenstadt Cemetery, where Erich Honecker laid a wreath at Bertolt Brecht's last resting place. A Brecht memorial, created by sculptor Fritz Cremer, was unveiled outside the Berliner Ensemble.

Erich and Margot Honecker, together with Brecht's daughter, Barbara Brecht-Schall, and theater director Manfred Wekwerth, president of the Academy of Arts, took their places in the first row of the auditorium, as did the members of the SED Central Committee Politburo Kurt Hager, Werner Krolikowski, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, Guenter Mittag, and Guenter Schabowski, and other public figures.

In his speech, Minister of Culture Dr Hans-Joachim Hoffmann praised Bertolt Brecht as a revolutionary artist, a man of the theater and a poet, a Marxist-Leninist, an antifascist, and a fighter for peace. Brecht had wanted to help change the world with his art. "His life and his works are inseparably bound up with the

revolutionary movements of our epoch," the minister stressed. Brecht's diverse works—his plays, prose, poetry, essays and works on dramatic theory, the work of the young man and of the mature author—bore the imprint of the century. Brecht's legacy belonged to the best traditions of German socialist art.

The minister stated: "From our country, to which he owes much and which shows him great gratitude, Brecht will be able to tell future generations, too, of the difficulty but also of the beauty of the struggles of this century."

This evening, at the place where Brecht last worked, the premiere of Manfred Wekwerth's production of his play "The Mother" will take place.

Leaders Attend Play

LD102132 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1858 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Berlin, 10 Feb (ADN)—A new production of Bertold Brecht's play "The Mother", based loosely on the novel by Maxim Gorki, was staged by the Berliner Ensemble theater today. The guests at the premiere included Kurt Hager, Politburo member and secretary of the SED Central Committee; Inge Lange, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the SED Central Committee; Dr Hans Reichelt, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; Dr Hans-Joachim Hoffmann, minister of culture; and other public figures and foreign participants at the international Brecht symposium.

Physician Discusses AIDS Situation

LD082358 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1601 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 8 Feb ADN—At the moment there are five people suffering from AIDS in the GDR. According to statistics, on 31 January this year 43 GDR citizens were infected. In addition to this there are some foreign citizens who are infected. "Thus we continue to have an exceptionally favorable epidemiological situation," Professor Niels Soennichsen, head of the clinic and polyclinic for skin diseases at the Charite in Berlin stated today in a radio interview.

It was made a notifiable disease very early in the GDR. "This is a measure," the scientist said, "which has proven itself. There are basically three reasons for this: 1. It is our concern to register those infected with HIV in order to treat them; 2. It is important to know whether one is infected or not in order to avoid passing the disease on; 3. It is important for society to have an overview of the scale of infection, because necessary measures of health policy result from this."

It is decisive that those affected remain integrated in society, "Each of those infected remains at his job. He suffers no economic disadvantages. There is no discrimination."

Professor Soennichsen pointed out that the information brochure, "What Must I Know? AIDS, how can I protect myself?" has appeared in a print run of 130,000, which is very high for the GDR. "In spite of this it was sold out after a few days. There is apparently still great need." Thus a second edition will appear in March—once more in a large run.

Central Committee Message to Security Ministry

AU101347 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 8 Feb 88 p 1

[Message from the SED Central Committee signed by General Secretary Erich Honecker to the Ministry of State Security: "Thanks for the Commitment in Protecting the Republic"]

[Text] Comrade Minister; Comrade Soldiers, Noncommissioned Officers, Warrant Officers, Officers, and Generals in the Ministry of State Security: On the occasion of the 38th anniversary of the establishment of the Ministry of State Security, the SED Central Committee conveys cordial congratulations to you.

Under the leadership of the party, the members of the Ministry of State Security and of the "Feliks Dzerzhinskiy" Guard Regiment are fulfilling the class assignment of the 11th SED Congress in a self-sacrificing manner in order to reliably protect the worker-peasant power and the peaceful life of the citizens in the GDR against every enemy through determined and preventive action.

Under the current conditions of class struggle, they regard it as their primary duty to rule out any kind of surprise by the enemy, to counter all subversive attacks on the constitutional foundations of our state, and to contribute to the comprehensive strengthening of the GDR. In this way we strengthen the confidence of the working people in the socialist state security organ and, side by side with the National People's Army and other defense and security forces, we make a significant contribution to implementing the resolutions of the 11th SED Congress.

The SED Central Committee conveys thanks and appreciation to you, esteemed Comrade Minister, to the party organizations, all members of the Ministry of State Security, and the "Feliks Dzerzhinskiy" Guard Regiment, as well as to the fighters on the invisible front for their great achievements.

Comrades Soldiers, Noncommissioned Officers, Warrant Officers, Officers, and Generals of the Ministry of State Security: The Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Nuclear Missiles, signed by the USSR and the United States, strengthens our confidence in the struggle for peace and social progress. Now it is a question of persistently continuing socialism's

peace offensive in alliance with all forces of reason. The enemies of peace are making efforts that cannot be overlooked to achieve military superiority under changed conditions.

Therefore it continues to be the most important task of the Ministry of State Security to remain highly vigilant and—in close militant alliance with the members of the fraternal organs of the Soviet Union and the other socialist states—to uncover all plans and actions directed against peace and socialism on a timely basis and to thwart them.

The SED Central Committee is convinced that as socialist patriots and proletarian internationalists and in close cooperation with the working people, the members of the Ministry of State Security and of the "Feliks Dzerzhinskiy" Guard Regiment will use all their force for the consistent implementation of the resolutions of the 11th SED Congress. We wish them creative vigor and success for that, and good health and personal well-being to the them and their family members.

With socialist greetings, SED Central Committee E. Honecker, general secretary.

The GDR Council of Ministers also conveyed congratulations.

Civil Defense Member's Message to Honecker

AU082123 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 6-7 Feb 88 p 3

["Declaration of Intent of the Members and Voluntary Workers of Civil Defense to Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council"]

[Text] Dear Comrade Erich Honecker, dear comrades in the party and state leadership:

From our festive rally on the occasion of the 30th anniversary, we, the members and voluntary workers of Civil Defense and those who bear responsibility for the protection of the population and the national economy, convey most cordial militant greetings to the SED Central Committee, its Politburo, and to you personally, highly esteemed Comrade Erich Honecker.

In this festive hour we express our deep gratitude to you and to the comrades of the party and state leadership for the high praise accorded to us through the award of the Karl Marx Order.

We are proud of being able to report that the assignment given to us by the 11th SED Congress is being reliably fulfilled by the leading organs, training institutions, and task forces of Civil Defense.

In a responsible way, we are fulfilling the tasks concerning the effective prevention of and determined struggle against the consequences of disasters and serious accidents.

This is the purpose of the hours of training and exercises, which we carry out mainly during our free time.

Leading organs and task forces, as well as local and enterprise organs have repeatedly had to prove their willingness to work and their skill.

Thus, we are making an indispensable contribution to making the people's life and production in socialism safer and safer.

We have a particular need to express our cordial thanks to the party of the workers class, to the state leadership, and to you personally, Comrade General Secretary, for the steadfast policy of peace which is directed toward strengthening socialism, toward the welfare of the people, and toward safeguarding peace.

With revolutionary passion, we unanimously support this policy and our socialist fatherland, which is fraternally linked with the Soviet Union and firmly anchored in the community of socialist states.

For us the considerable success in safeguarding peace, which was reached at the end of 1987 mainly as a result of the efforts of the Soviet Union and the other socialist states, means an obligation to fulfill the social assignment even more effectively.

In view of the increasing demands on the overall strengthening of the republic and on the struggle for peace, we consider that our work for the stable and dynamic efficiency of our country lies in increasing the efforts in preventive protection [vorbeugenden schutz] against disasters and accidents and to be always ready and capable to combat any kind of damage.

The great attention and care that the party and state leadership always devote to the protection of the population and the national economy, as well as to all people working for this, are a guideline and an encouragement for us.

We consider the increasingly firmer cooperation with the fraternal civil defense organs in the USSR and the other states of the socialist community an important basis for the fulfillment of our humanistic task.

Led by the militant Marxist-Leninist party and supported by the trust and the help of all the people, we will continue—at the side of the National People's Army and the other protection and security organs of our Republic, and together with the state leaders and the state and economic organs—to reliably fulfill the class assignment to protect life and property in consistent implementation of the decisions of the 11th SED Congress.

In socialist competition, the voluntary workers are directing their efforts toward achieving equally high performances in production and in civil defense.

In unshakable loyalty to the party of the workers class, we, the members and voluntary workers of Civil Defense, affirm on our day of honor: We will spare neither strength nor efforts to steadily increase protection against disasters and accidents, and raise the readiness for action of the staffs and formations. We affirm that the SED and the entire GDR people can always rely on the members and voluntary workers of Civil Defense.

This is our unanimous will!

Leaders' Public Appearances 28 Jan-3 Feb

AU051213 [Editorial Report] East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German from 29 January to 4 February reports the following public appearances of GDR leaders (date of publication in parentheses):

Hans-Joachim Bohme, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Halle Bezirk leadership, attended a workers militia meeting in Halle on 30 January. (1 February, p 2)

Horst Dohlus, Politburo member and secretary of the SED Central Committee, received Geza Kotai, Central Committee member and director of the MSZMP International Relations Department, in Berlin on 28 January. (29 January, p 2)

Werner Felfe, Politburo member and secretary of the SED Central Committee, and Margarete Mueller, candidate member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, presented birthday congratulations from the SED Central Committee to Willi Breunig, president of the GDR Agriculture Society, in Berlin on 2 February. (3 February, p 2)

Kurt Hager, Politburo member and secretary of the SED Central Committee, attended the premiere of the film "One Person Carries the Other Person's Burden..." in Berlin on 28 January. (29 January, p 2)

Guenter Kleiber, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, received Levi Farah Balmaseda, minister of building material industry of the Republic of Cuba, in Berlin on 28 January. (29 January, p 2)

Werner Krolikowski, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, attended a reception given by Lawry Wilson Herron, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Australia, in Berlin on 1 February. (2 February, p 2)

Inge Lange, candidate member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, attended a discussion of the People's Chamber Committee for Labor and Social Policy in Berlin on 28 January. (29 January, p 2)

Alfred Neumann, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, visited the VEB Berlin-Chemie in Berlin on 1 January. (2 January, p 2)

Hoos on Tasks Facing Planning Office

AU090957 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 6 Feb 88 p 3

[Interview with Janos Hoos, chairman of the National Planning Office, by Economic Correspondent Istvan Matko: "More Modern Government Management—Need To Broaden the Scope of the Economy and Society"—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] At its December 1987 session, the National Assembly adopted the law on the ministries, and a decision was made to reorganize the government. It was the first time since 1967 that such a large-scale change had been made. At the closed session of the National Assembly, Premier Karoly Grosz said that the changes to be implemented in the ministries and in national organs aimed at establishing integrated ministries that are capable of ensuring internal coordination and, at the same time, of eliminating rigid functional and sectoral division in economic management. The deadline is 31 March; until then, however, MAGYAR HIRLAP will continuously report on the work being done in this spirit. Our series now continues by publishing the tasks of the National Planning Office. Today's interview is with Janos Hoos, whom we asked primarily about the nature of planning activity and the role it is playing in the preparation of decisions.

[Matko] In accordance with the government's work program, since 1 January 1988 the National Planning Office has been working in the framework of the modified government organization system [with ministerial status]. How does this affect the activities and tasks of the Planning Office?

[Hoos] The planning and activities of our office must be adjusted to the changing economic conditions and to the changes in state guidance. The Planning Office continues to play an important role in making preparations and developing initiatives for working out the government's economic policy and in coordinating its implementation. At the same time, several planning functions must be reevaluated and modernized. We are currently working on this reevaluation and modernization, and we will formulate our proposals by the middle of this year—proposals that we hope will be in harmony with what professional circles and broad public opinion expect from planning activity during the development of economic management. [passage omitted]

[Matko] We see today an increase in the state's influence in some market-oriented countries, while a considerable reevaluation of planning activity is underway in the socialist countries. What is your opinion of this process?

[Hoos] In further developing the economic mechanism, the goal is to make the spirit of enterprise the driving force in economic activity. Therefore, the role played by the market and the self-regulating mechanisms is increasing. We will particularly take this process into consideration in modernizing planning activity. [passage omitted]

Domestic experiences show that if we fail to coordinate economic processes and to control those who direct these processes, then a healthy economic policy can emerge only with difficulty. It is quite clear, for example, that the Finance Ministry, other individual involved ministries, the Central Bank, and the economic organizations all can have different views and interests. If these different views and interests are not brought into agreement later, then no efficient economic policy will emerge from their joint activity. Therefore, it is the current task of the planning office to coordinate the planning activities of the economic management organs and integrate their activities in the direction of the government's economic policy activity. [passage omitted]

[Matko] The ministries have lately carried out their "interest coordination" actions within their own framework and in a considerably contradictory way. We can see, for example, the continuing preference given to the basic material sector and to the mining sector. These two sectors continue to be given high priority to this very day. How can the Planning Office promote the interests of the people's economy in sensitive decisions?

[Hoos] As a central planning body, one of the important functions of the Planning Office is to formulate opinions on fundamental structural issues and on their relationship to social and economic policy. I think, therefore, that it is desirable for the Planning Office to accept a more direct role in outlining certain structural goals. [passage omitted]

[Matko] What is the Planning Office currently engaged in?

[Hoos] A professional and scientific evaluation and public debate of the analyses, studies, and forecasts of long-term planning beyond the year 2,000 is currently underway. The corporate and official bodies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, university faculties, and research institutes are actively participating in this evaluation. Based on this, too, the preparation of an initial synthesis formulated in terms of alternatives is currently underway. [passage omitted]

We are also dealing with the organization of tasks to facilitate the implementation of the people's economic plan for 1988. Within the framework of this activity, we are currently evaluating the economic processes of 1987 and their effects on the economy. At the same time, we will soon start preparations for working out the 1989 plan. [passage omitted]

We will soon start preparations for working out the next medium-term economic plan, and we are also preparing for plan coordination and economic policy consultations

with the CEMA countries. It is in our fundamental interests to modernize cooperation within CEMA and, therefore, we actively participate in efforts in this direction. [passage omitted]

[Matko] It has happened before, and it still frequently happens, that the concepts of the people's economic plan and the concepts of the enterprises differ considerably from each other. Can dialogue reduce these differences?

[Hoos] Yes, I think it can, particularly if the enterprises are able to coordinate their market-oriented interests and the goals of the people's economy during the process of working out the goals and means of the plan. The system of regulators plays an extremely important role in this because the goals of the plan are implemented today through financial means and through budget, credit, price, and exchange rate policy measures. If we we are able to consistently coordinate these elements, then the well-formulated interest of the enterprises and the goals of the people's economy will advance in the same direction, and everyone will benefit from this. [passage omitted]

[Matko] Do the conditions exist for the Planning Office to promote this new work style?

[Hoos] If the Planning Office continues to develop its own work style, preparations, and activities in the right direction, then it will be able to fulfill its role in state guidance. We continue to play an active role in analyzing economic processes, and preparing and implementing the government's economic decisions, and in the activities of government committees, and other forums for preparing decisions. [passage omitted]

'More Restrained' Loan Policy Introduced

AU100916 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 5 Feb 88 p 5

[B.K.-attributed report: "Banks Reached an Agreement—More Restrained Loan Policy, Compromising Solutions"]

[Excerpts] The "conciliatory talks" were successful and it was possible to reach a compromise in the already 2-month-long and quite sharp dispute between the Central Bank and the two largest commercial financial institutions in Hungary, the Hungarian Credit Bank and the National Commercial and Credit Bank. On 4 February Minister of Finance Miklos Villanyi gave a briefing on the essentials of the agreement, the compromise solutions, and the future cooperation between the banks. He also drew the managers of the banks in question and of the National Bank Supervising Authority into the public exchange of opinions.

The dispute was set off by the Hungarian National Bank. In order to slow down the outflow of loans, which was greater than planned, it had already modified the extent of and interest on loans intended to finance working assets in 1987. In the current year, however, it issued further restrictive measures. As a result, serious solvency difficulties developed in the two large commercial banks, of which one has business relations mainly with industrial enterprise and the other with agricultural enterprises. [passage omitted]

Matyas Timar, president of the Hungarian National Bank, stressed that the issue is not one of drastic restriction. This is also demonstrated by the fact that, despite the more difficult conditions, the three other commercial banks—which are perceptibly managing their activities more cautiously—have freely available capital. Noting the liquidity difficulties of the two banks, the central bank automatically used the method of extending compulsory credit, because its staff thought that the 22 percent interest would have a "deterrent" effect, that is, it would encourage a better-considered policy for granting credit. Such automatic reactions will be eliminated in the future. However, the two large commercial banks will be given the opportunity of using a so-called bridging loan in order to break even by the end of the first quarter of 1988. The interest on these loans will be only 16 percent, but they will only be granted after close examination of each individual case. The commercial banks will have to repay the bridging loans by the end of March, that is, in the course of the second quarter of 1988. This solution will provide an opportunity to adequately pace the necessary reduction of loans, explore new credit sources, and regroup the loans that had already been granted. [passage omitted]

In his concluding remarks, Miklos Villanyi said that it is also possible to regard these temporary disturbances as the tuition fee for developing a two-level banking system. In the future, better cooperation will be needed between the banks' supervisory authority, the central bank, and the commercial banks. As the banks' largest shareholder, the state is interested, among other things, in strengthening its representation in the banks' executive boards. At the same time, a council of state representatives, led by the competent deputy minister, will be established in order to promote the mutual exchange of information. In addition, a securities supervisory authority and a securities council will also be established in order to observe the increasingly lively securities market.

New Ministry Official Views Ecology Issues

AU092030 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 8 Feb 87 p 2

[Interview with Dr Karoly Mislei, deputy chief of the Coordination Main Department in the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Water Resources, by Lyubomir Rozenshtayn: "The Ecological Responsibility of Society"]

[Text] Dr Karoly Mislei, deputy chief of the"Coordination" Main Department of the newly created Ministry of Environmental Protection and Water Management in Hungary, was a recent visitor to our country. Our first question to him was: What has changed with the creation of the new ministry?

[Misley] Our principal task is to concentrate our organizational activity on environmental protection, which until now was distributed between different departments and organizations. We intend to direct our work mainly toward resolving the ecological issues that cause our country the most trouble: clean air, drafting a program for neutralizing especially dangerous industrial effluents, and protecting sources of drinking water.

[Rozenshtayn] In Hungary the public interest in environmental protection is constantly growing. The ecological responsibility of every citizen is increasing and, with it, his implacability toward every case of violation of nature. In recent years the public has sharply raised two issues. The people have shown exceptional concern about how the planned construction of the cascade on the River Danube will affect the life of the river. In the small mining town of Dorot there was a plan to build a furnace for especially harmful waste, and the population expressed its alarm that this would even further worsen the already aggravated condition of the environment. In both cases the specialists treated the complaints with the necessary seriousness. A commission of the Academy of Sciences made a special study of the effects of the cascade and a decision was adopted to make additional investments in order to restore the ecological balance. In Dorot a decision was made to apply one of the most modern technologies in the world, which produces the absolute minimum of harmful substances.

The two cases taught us a great lesson: The public must be informed correctly and in good time about all projects that to some extent affect the natural environment. We are convinced that we must accept the entire burden for this. Had we informed the people at the proper time, they would have been less alarmed.

[Rozenshtayn] Does this mean that the new ministry intends to set up a "green telephone," for example, through which everyone can obtain up-to-date information about the current state of the natural environment at every location in the country?

[Mislei] Our plans do not yet include such a project, but the reason for this is not that we want to hide certain facts from the population. Unfortunately, our information system has as yet not reached the necessary level.

We are doing everything possible to make the facts that we have available publicly known. The Hungarian Radio has a program called just that—"Green Telephone." Everyone is able to use this telephone line to ask questions both on global issues, relating to our entire ecological policy, and on quite specific problems, and he will get an immediate reply from the specialists on duty.

We have introduced ecology as a subject throughout the educational system: from the elementary school to post-diploma professional training. Our aim is to teach the young people to value and preserve the environment and to direct their active work not toward causing damage, but toward involving mankind with nature!

Gaspar, TU Delegation Return From PRC

LD102003 Budapest MTI in English
1905 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 10 (MTI)—The Hungarian trade union delegation which visited China under the leadership of Sandor Gaspar, president of the Central Council of Hungarian Trade Unions (SZOT), returned to Budapest Wednesday. The delegation was meeting an invitation from the All-China Federation of Trade Unions. The delegation was met at Ferihegy Airport by Tibor Baranyai, general secretary of SZOT. Also present was Zhu Ankang, ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Hungary.

USSR's Kulikov Meets With Siwicki

LD102031 Warsaw PAP in English 1912 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 10—PUWP CC Political Bureau member, Poland's National Defence Minister, Gen. Florian Siwicki met on Wednesday with Commander-in-Chief of the Joint Armed Forces of States-Parties to the Warsaw treaty, Soviet Marshal Viktor Kulikov, now on a working visit to Poland.

At the meeting, held in a friendly atmosphere, the two exchanged views on the political-military situation in Europe and discussed directions of the further perfecting of cooperation within the joint armed forces.

Sejm Resumes Sessions, Discusses 1988 Plans

Labor, Welfare Minister Recalled

LD110924 Warsaw PAP in English 0854 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb 11—Wojciech Jaruzelski and Zbigniew Messner are taking part in the meeting of the Sejm, Polish parliament which resumed this morning under the chairmanship of Sejm Speaker Roman Malinowski.

During today's meeting the Sejm will continue discussion on yesterday's report forwarded by the premier and concerning current works of the government and its plans for 1988, as well as on reports of Sejm committees on the government implementation programme of the 2nd stage of economic reform and the state of workers' self-management in state enterprises. The Sejm approved the report presented by the chairman of the Council of Ministers on the government's current work and intentions for 1988.

The Sejm also adopted—with one abstention—a resolution on the implementation programme of the second stage of the economic reform and the activities of worker crew self-governments in state enterprises.

The Sejm called up an extraordinary committee for the control of the implementation of the realization programme of the second stage of the economic reform.

Under another point on the agenda covering changes in the composition of the Council of Ministers, the Sejm recalled Janusz Pawlowski from the post of the minister of labour and welfare policy with 21 voices against and 61 abstentions. To the post, the Sejm appointed Ireneusz Sekula. The resolution was adopted with one voice against and 48 abstentions.

The draft amendment to the law on elections to people's councils was presented by Kazimierz Barcikowski. In the course of a public discussion the Council of State received 651 suggestions and opinions, he said. The proposal to abandon preferences towards candidates listed on top positions on election lists and introduce alphabetical order on the lists was received with full understanding.

The draft provides for three candidates to run for one mandate, which is in line with the postulates. The Council of State appealed for upholding the so-called voivodship lists, reducing the total number of mandates by 10 per cent and introducing an additional regulation on recommending candidates to such lists also by the outgoing people's council. A requirement for a candidate of the voivodship list to collect more than 50 per cent of votes is an obstacle to unpopular persons.

Barcikowski expressed a conviction that the proposed changes to the law are a big leap ahead in the development of socialist democracy.

Messner Outlines Plans

LD101543 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1300 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Address by Premier Zbigniew Messner on government plans for coming year and on implementation of the second stage of the economic reform, at 10 February Sejm session—live]

[Text] Citizen speaker, citizen deputies: I wish to present a report on the intentions of the government in 1988 against the background of last year's results. The scale of events over the past months, the number of tasks already undertaken and earmarked for implementation, the social mood all lead me, however, to diverge from the traditional mode of presentation.

The work agenda of the supreme chamber envisages the adoption of a resolution: on the program for the realization of the second stage of the economic reform, prepared by the government with the inspiration of the 10th PZPR Congress and on the basis of its decisions. The main ideas of the second stage have been subjected to a national referendum. As a result of this, the government supplemented and modified the program, taking into account both public fears and the clearly emphasized will to reform the state and the economy.

The general objectives and directions of action have, however, been maintained. A number of solutions, of a considerable specific gravity, at the start of implementation of the second stage, have already been introduced. Examples are: the change in function and reorganization of the central administration; legal solutions which gradually remove the barriers limiting enterprise [przedsiebiorczosc], and a clearly marked reduction of the range of central distribution of raw and other materials.

After numerous discussions and social consultations, the most significant change—a comprehensive restructuring of prices and incomes—has been initiated. These changes are bold but not devoid of risk. (?Expectations) become fact. Their range and depth cannot fail to give rise, and are giving rise, to various kinds of controversies and social emotions.

Hopes connected with the chance of healing the economy are arising side by side with moods of pessimism and mistrust. The objective causes of these tensions should be sought in three places.

One must reiterate that the reform is a process and not a single act. It creates conditions for human activity but is not a substitute. The reform mechanisms will not start to function with the striking of the New Year clock. Determination and hard and consistent work for its implementation are needed. In theory everyone seems to understand this. However, the logic of reasoning clashes in practice with impatience, with wishes and expectations which have been awakened, on one side, the reserve, laziness and particular interests, on the other side.

Second, the democratization of life is an integral factor of the reform. Thus, the shape of the reform should have been worked out according to the principles of democracy. It was done in this manner through the calling of the referendum and the respect paid to the opinions expressed in it. Broad consultation about proposals sometimes resulted in criticism, as if it was an attribute of powerful authorities to make decisions without involving society. We do not share this criticism, remembering how the power of those who ruled through imposition and orders turned out to be a sham. Extending the discussion on the shape of the reform and on the consequences of this—excessive buying out of goods and partial disorganization of the market, delays in passing decisions determining the work of enterprises—are a direct, although not always necessary, consequence of democracy.

Third, in spite of the argument of the alleged inability of the government to reform itself, we began the second stage by changing the functions and structure of the central administration. This has resulted in a breaking away from the traditional, paternalistic links between administrative bodies and economic units. We predicted from the beginning that such a situation could cause periodic disturbances. Enterprises must draw their own conclusions from the fundamental principles of the reform: independence, self-management, and self-financing. There are also clear, conflicting interests of various social and professional groups. Their positions clash and they concentrate on their own needs. The government is aware of these problems. Conflicts or even tensions of varying intensity can occur, especially in periods of transition to new models of economic and social relations. One should regard this year, above all, as well as the 2 coming years, as such a period.

Some of these complications are connected directly with restructuring. Some of them, like covering one's backside, waste, poor quality, mismanagement, are relics of the past epoch which are still with us.

However, there is no going back on the reform. It is no good trying to overcome contradictions by retreating, but only by proceeding more quickly and more resolutely. This is not only our viewpoint. This is also the view of our friends and allies from the socialist states who are in the process of restructuring. Poland is also being attentively observed outside the borders of our community.

Will we succeed in freeing ourselves from barren declarations and disputes? Will we, in defiance of historical experience, manage to cope with the internal contradictions? Will we be able to move from words to effective actions?

The only chance of development lies in the decisive reply: Yes. I turn to the supreme chamber requesting that it accept the program and confirm the need to concentrate all forces and resources for the full implementation of the second stage of the economic reform. The essence of our measures will be the effective linking of the new economic system with legal, organizational, propaganda, and control instruments and even, should this prove necessary, with means of administrative pressure.

Having in mind the general social interest and deeming the resolute implementation of the reform to be its fundamental duty, the government will assure conformity with these measures in such a way that they are all consistently aimed toward the model assumed in the program.

I am authorized by the PZPR Central Committee Politburo to state that to this end all means of political influence will also be set in motion. I am convinced that this process will be supported by the United Peasant Party, the Democratic Party, social and vocational organizations, as well as nonparty citizens.

May it please the house, we are entering the current year with specific achievments in the implementation of the second stage.

Since October last year 30 tasks in the program have already been fully executed; while in 21 cases solutions have been prepared which will be implemented in the coming days.

The effects of these undertakings will gradually be felt more and more by the community. The presentation of the program (?was accompanied through) the supreme chamber by 15 laws on changes in the function and structure of the supreme and central organs of the state administration. After the passing of the period envisaged for the organization of the new ministries, the conformity of the implementation with the assumptions will be closely monitored. During this month already, the government will draw all the conclusions arising from this monitoring and if the need occurs, it will carry out the necessary changes.

The independence of economic units has already been considerably increased. The powers of founding organs have been curtailed. This process will be continued. The list of enterprises whose director is appointed by the founding organ has been reduced by more than two thirds. In addition, some powers have been transferred to voivodas and chief administrative officers of towns and parishes. The first decisions have been made to

include more than 300 enterprises under the founding supervision of local administration bodies. Thus the possibilities will increase to augment the budgets of people's councils.

Not all the solutions introduced to date deserve to be assessed positively. The organization of foreign currency auctions is evidence of a none-too-happy improvement of the accepted economic mechanism. They were intended to provide free access to the purchase of foreign currency by economic units. In practice, however, because of the ceilings fixed by the banks, the whole initiative was (?distorted).

Introducing the principle of making declarations instead of presenting certificates laboriously gathered by the citizen ran up against the barriers of insufficient adaptation of legal regulations and traditional bad habits. These examples show that a reforming initiative is not enough; nor is giving the initiative the appropriate legal forms. To achieve results, the government will, on the one hand, see to it that there is a mutual cohesion of solutions and, on the other, oversee their consistent implementation.

May it please the house, an assessment of last year's economic results is not unambiguous. We achieved an increase in industrial production and in the national income; and the results of 1986-87 are in line with the amounts envisaged for that period in the five-year plan. However, the rate of growth of the national income slowed down last year as a result of the drop in the scale of agricultural and building construction production. It deserves to be mentioned that the output of branches of industry which are involved in technological progress rose more quickly, especially in electronics, in the precision engineering industry, and in the chemical and electrical engineering industries.

Favorable trends have appeared in exports. They rose more quickly than industrial production, despite the fact that coal exports dropped by more than 3 million tonnes. By the same token, increased supplies of coal were sent to the domestic market.

We exceeded the planned credit balance in goods turnover with the capitalist countries. This in part enabled us to service our debt. However, our export capability, and therefore our supply capability, was still curtailed. The raw and other material difficulties are seen by the government as one of the objective barriers to enterprises increasing production. This must be overcome. It leads to incomplete utilization of production capabilities. It is absolutely impossible to overcome this limitation by using administrative methods alone. We are alleviating the stresses which occur, however, by strengthening price preferences for long-term coproduction agreements, by making the foreign currency economy more flexible, and by retaining the forms of government orders.

The investment structure has improved, although not enough. Outlays on machinery and installations have increased by 12 percent, whereas on construction and assembly work, by only 2.5 percent. The share of central investment in the structure of outlays has dropped. Enterprises' investments have risen.

Negative phenomena have also occurred. The dangers have worsened in some sectors. Among the more unfavorable facts, one has to include the lack of economic equilibrium, alongside high inflation—higher than expected, an unbalanced budget, and the unsatisfactory scale of housing construction.

Admittedly, more than 2,000 more homes have been handed over for occupation comraded with the previous year but numerous voivodships have not carried out the tasks they set for themselves. This concerns particularly Nowy Sacz, Czestochowa, Jelenia Gora, Gdansk, and Siedlce. It is worth noting that in January this year only 75 percent of the January 1987 level was implemented in incomparably better climatic conditions. I have asked for an explanation of this question. The government will draw the relevant organizational and personnel conclusions from it.

In the fourth quarter of last year supplies to the market deteriorated. The main reason for this was the panic buying. Due to the lack of possibilities to increase supplies of current prodution this could only but aggravate difficulties and decrease trade reserves. The results of last year point to continuing barriers to development, such as a lack of equilibrium and low efficiency of economic management. The benefits to be gained from implementation of the program regarding the directions of economic policy for 1988 confirms this, that is the lifting of the barriers hampering the development of economic initiatives aimed at increasing supplies, the introduction of changes in the financial system, the acceleration of the restructuring of industry, the verification of the investment program, the demand of economies, and the intensification of economic and organizational discipline in relation to all economic objects.

May it please the house, in the first 1/2 year period the government will draw up further solutions aimed at the development of enterprise and at encouraging economies and economic behavior. The law on economic activity will be a document of important practical significance. Its assumptions have already gained the approval of this house. The law will considerably simplify the creation of economic units and especially small state and cooperative businesses and also, in line with the demands of the Democratic Party, private ones. It is assumed that the implementation of these proposals will be favorable to the better satisfaction of peoples' needs.

Positive results will be generated by the law for implementation of innovation institutions. From September to the end of December, 185 enterprises of that kind were registered. By using mor than 320 Polish patents they have started the production of nearly 500 modern

products from complicated medical measuring apparatuses to market products that are very sought after. The basic direction of our action is, however, the development of initiative in large enterprises of the socialised sector, of initiative and activity of the great industrial working class. It is this very aim which is served by the activities already mentioned, which reduce the interference of founding organs.

The law on bonds, the draft of which has already been prepared, the introduction of economic risk insurance, and the amendment of regulations on setting up joint companies and making the institution of hiring free manufacturing capacity more universal will serve to stimulate the spirit of enterprise. Together with solutions which have already been implemented, these documents will create a packet of legal and economic measures to open a broad field of economic initiatives. Simultaneously, the scope and manner of keeping economic records and statistical reporting will be considerably simplified. We expect for enterprises to reduce their administration and bookkeeping services accordingly.

There should be similar planned changes concerning cooperatives. The amendments to the cooperative law are a useful basis for the development of grassroots initiatives, reducing administrative barriers, and increasing members' influence on decisions made by cooperative authorities. So far, one cannot say there has been full utilization of these possibilities by the cooperative administration. I am convinced that the leadership of the cooperative movement will implement indispensable and radical measures concerning this issue.

It would be difficult to alter the conservative attitudes in economic units, uproot evasiveness, and inspire the courage to take economic risks without radical changes in the system of control. Transformations will concern all control institutions. Such are the aims of the team for the state control system, set up by the PZPR Central Committee Politburo.

As far as the control activity of state administration bodies is concerned, the government has prepared guidelines for these changes, based among other things on a far-reaching reduction of the number of inspection services and on their integration. The second stage of the reform calls for a new perception of the essence of control. The mechanism should be oriented not towards the detailed checking of bits of paper, but towards the assessment of the final effect, including the assessment of profit as a financial manifestation of this effect.

In the case of specialist control, one cannot, of course, do it in isolation from the demands of safety, sanitary regulations, and standards of quality. However, here also the possibility of departing from formalism is significant. The control mechanism cannot be a factor for curbing initiative and the spirit of enterprise. An excessive number of inspections has social and economic costs.

The logic of the reform brings about the need to economize. It is worth remembering that today the national income is run by fewer employees than in previous decade and that they work fewer hours. Finally, they are supposed to manufacture goods for a growing number of people in the pre- and postproduction stage. The price decisions which have been taken, measures in the area of technological progress, and the restructuring of investment projects and their verification force us to economize. It is worth stressing that the increase in production prices cannot be fully reflected in retail prices. This principle will force enterprises to look for cheaper production factors. In the final calculation, economizing also means higher wages.

Paying attention to the quality of manufactured products and services which are offered is an important part of economizing.

In accordance with the proposals of the Consumers' Federation, the measures taken are aimed at making quality control more stringent and linking the financial results obtained by the enterprise with the quality of production, while we shall apply restrictive tax conditions on those who produce garbage. This will be a form of social compensation.

Comprehensive [systemowy] measures are not sufficient. They will be backed up by a broad popularization of saving, which is an important component of the educational process. This is how all rich countries behave.

According to the pattern of past years, the government will limit budget expenses. Among these, savings in the sphere of state administration, despite the fact that this branch makes use of only 2 percent of the total budget expenditure, have an important position. As well as the saving of over 4,000 jobs, and the resultant saving of premises in the central administration, a number of simplifications will be introduced to the regional administration, especially at voivodship level. They will concern both the structures of regional offices and the simplification of procedures. They will also embrace the budgetary units subject to the state administration.

Considerable savings—according to the assessments of the party-government Commission for the Review and Modernization of Economic and State Structures—will be produced by a simplification of cooperative structures, especially of the voivodship unions. A considerable number of these people could take up work where they are most needed, for example in the sphere of trade and services.

In order to encourage thrifty behavior, together with an increase in the price of electricity, the payments tariff will be differentiated. We shall pay less for electricity within the parameters of the average and decisively more for excessive consumption. A similar mechanism will be gradually introduced, as the necessary meters are produced, in relation to the use of water and central heating.

The new principles of granting credits for housing construction envision a lower interest rate on loans within the standard norms, and a relatively higher rate in the case of exceeding these norms. The same principles will apply in the case of defining the quantity of exploitation fees [oplata ekploatacyjna] and of tax burdens.

These are just some examples. The point is not to exactly present them, but to make people aware that the effects of savings can be achieved only when comprehensive measures are taken.

May it please the house. The effective steering of the economic reform is decisively influenced by the conditions of operation and by the financial parameters by which the enterprise is guided. This concerns in particular prices, pay, and taxes.

The government has never treated price increases as the only way to solve the country's economic problems. However, it has never maintained the illusion that these problems can be permanently solved without putting the price system in order. Today, prices reflect better the real value of goods. Enterprises know better what costs how much, what substitues are to be used, and where to look for economies. No doubt, this will allow a more efficient use of raw and other materials, of which there is a shortage. And as a result, this will allow an increase in manufacturing output, and in the longer run to modernize the technology and quality of products. Thus, realistic prices are an important factor in eliminating the objective reasons of inflation. The determination with which the government has striven to create a new framework for the functioning of the economy and new economic and financial regulations originated there.

In the nearest future we shall submit to the Sejm a draft amendment to the price law. It will be aimed at a departure from the present formula for establishing prices by mechanically reflecting manufacturing costs, as well as at liberalization of the price system. Where the existence of balance and competition makes such an approach justifiable, prices should be free from any state interference. However, in all areas, where such factors do not occur, treasury offices will take up constant monitoring of negotiated prices set up as the result of agreements between the retail trade and manufacturers.

A close relation between work and pay is a significant principle of the reform. The legal systematic conditions created in order to fulfill the principle of pay according to work will be improved by the amended law on the principles of creating an enterprise remuneration system. After consultations with the OPZZ the government will submit its draft to the Sejm in the nearest future. Adoption of the law will create adequate conditions for the signing of new collective labor agreements. Permanent bases for calculating wages will also be defined in the budget sphere, which will take into consideration the level of qualifications and reflect it as a proportion of wages in manufacturing enterprises. The possibilities of partial allocation of means to cover wages from own resources by some budget units will be extended. In order to condsolidate the function of wages as an incentive, we have departed from the so-called pay guillotine. The formula, according to which the increase in individual wages coming from the enterprise's profit is taxed, does not limit the enterprise's freedom to calculate its amount, provided the increase is obtained as the effect of improved results and a reduction in an excessive levels of employment.

Maintaining the planned pay discipline this year is a strategically important and, at the same time, extremely difficult task. Various pay pressures do appear and can grow. One must not give in to them. An outflow of means which is not justified by the effects of good management would be detrimental to the interests of all society. It would simply be an economic self-injury.

The government will rigorously abide by the adopted principles. The legal and economic regulations only, however, may not be sufficient. We appeal for universal sociopolitical support in this issue. Maintaining the pay discipline is a duty of not only enterprise managements, but also a demonstration of the acceptance of responsibility by employee self-management bodies and trade unions.

The role of the tax system as one of the basic elements of state financial policy, will increase as the reform progresses. This year's changes mean a lessening of the span of enterprise tax burdens and of the extent of exemptions and concessions. In accordance with the chamber's recommendations, by half way through the year, the government will have worked out concepts for fundamental changes in the tax policy system. The changes are going in two directions: First, replacing turnover tax by value added tax. This solution operates in many countries already. It was introduced in Hungary at the beginning of this year. In experts' views, it increases the effectiveness of the state's financial system, (?by forcing) an increase in efficiency. The second direction is lowering income tax with a simultaneous curtailment of concessions. We are also considering the possibility of replacing in future—on the pattern of other states—the tax on remuneration paid by enterprises by a general tax on the citizen's personal income.

State organs have often faced a socially important dilemma: Should they (?give) financial preferences, and in this way put off to the more distant future the compulsion to improve efficiency; or should they risk the enterprise collapsing, resulting in a temporary cut in production and the dissatisfaction of workforces? Let us say openly that we have too often succumbed to the pressure of the present time. We will now resolve these dilemmas in a more determined way, particularly as regards enterprises which have not taken advantage of the available means of improving the situation; which have not carried out job evaluation [atestacja]; have not rationalized employment, especially of administrative staff; and which have not improved their cost accounting.

On the basis of the Council of Ministers recommendations, an interdepartmental team, with the participation of the National Bank of Poland president, has analyzed the situation in these enterprises. In the near future, the government will take decisions on the fate of several dozen of them. We have adopted the general principle, in fact, that units which don't manage to restore their economies to health in 2 years, will not be able to avail themselves of any forms of economic support.

May it please the House! Changes in the economic system are not enough to modernize production. Restructuring the economy has a strategic significance. We have been talking about this for quite some time now. Restructuring the economy was an important element in the work on the National Socioeconomic Plan up to the year 1990. The program adopted therein is, however, being implemented too slowly, in relation to the radical requirements of the second stage of the reform. Adapting the intentions to the actual possibilities and needs, we are accelerating the implementation of some and are eliminating or halting other undertakings. Work on the amendments to the investment program has been started in recent months by the Planning Commission. It aims to transfer outlays from capital-intensive undertakings with long implementation cycles to investments guaranteeing an improvement in the efficiency of industry. An important part of them will be directed to the production of equipment guaranteeing economies, the effective use of fuel, power and raw materials. The first recommendations of the Planning Commission have already been adopted by the Council of Ministers. Outlays on financing investments from the budget which have a protracted implementation cycle have been cut.

Bank chairmen have been instructed to review investments made by such businesses with the possible aim of stopping credit facilities. Construction of the Stefanow hard coal mine in the Lublin coal basin has been stopped. The conditions for issuing permission to undertake investments using budget resources have been made more stringent. The proposals for verifying the investment program will be examined by the government in April and the house will be asked to accept them. On the lines already mentioned, the industry minister has worked to make structural changes more specific. The bases for this are the existing programs, which are included in the National Socioeconomic Plan, for structural changes, economies and the development of science and technology. Analyzing the progress in implementing them will define the directions for the state's industrial policy. On the basis the industry minister will review programs drawn up in previous years for developmental branches, sectors and chosen enterprises, and will then define the assumptions and their verifications as well as the implementation instruments. Assistance in financing choosen enterprises, particularly among those which are competitive, will be provided from the fund for structural changes in industry.

Mr Speaker, May it please this House. Productive agriculture, efficient management of the food economy and an abundant food market—cannot exist without a strong economy. However there is also a reverse dependence. Appreciation of this fact lies at the basis of the joint PZPR and ZSL agricultural policy. The development of efficient farmers in all sectors, progress particularly in the use of technology and recently also in protecting plants, as well as a considerable—though not consistently meeting the level of expectations—improvement in the conditions of life and work in the countryside give all society measurable benefits. Proof of this can be found in the balanced food market and the growing favorable balance in foreign trade turnover in agricultural and foodstuffs.

These achievements cannot, however, veil weaknesses. Among these are excessively extended investments in the food economy complex; excessively large losses in processing, storage and transport; shortages in the supply of fuel, particularly recently in liquid fuel; and a deterioration in the relative incomes of agricultural and nonagricultural groups. Concrete measures to overcome these shortages include the modernization of the mineral fertilizer industry and the means to protect plants and increase production; the modernization of the electrical power engineering network and equipment; the improvement of the countryside's water supply; the increase of coal supplies; the reconstruction and modernization of orchards; and a considerable increase in expenditure on importing plant protection devices which will facilitate progress in the sphere of complex technology. This will finally improve living and working conditions in the countryside.

[Text] The government's decisions on prices and incomes guarantee full compensation to agriculture for the increase in the material and financial costs of production; to make up in full for the increase in the cost of living and also to decrease by 7 percent the existing disparity between the income from agricultural work and incomes in the socialized economy.

However, the growing material and financial means for agriculture cannot find their way to every agricultural producer, regardless of his productivity. They must be taken advantage of primarily by those who guarantee the highest effectiveness. This guarantee can be given only applying objective economic criteria. That is why we place such emphasis on the quickest possible balancing of the market (?with) means of production for agriculture, including increasing the scope of contracted prices. The demonopolization of the turnover of those means should also bring down the brokerage costs and remove various bureaucratic burdens and distortions.

For the same reasons, all types of existing and future economic units will be given access to procurement, sales, and processing. This will ensure lowering of the costs of producing food, curtailment of losses and waste, the creation of local markets and, by the same token, competition. Going over to subsidizing products and not the producer will compel effectiveness in management. In the process of balancing the agricultural market, an important role is also played by measures aimed at improving the

structure and quality of means of production and at improving the functioning of institutions which service agriculture, including farm service and agricultural advisers. They all will bring a gradual change in the function of the state in the agriculture and food sector.

In the future, the role of the state will consist of setting the guaranteed minimum procurement prices; in making, if need be, intervention purchases on the agricultural produce market; supporting profitable exports and subsidizing particularly desirable directions of scientific-technical advances.

The rationalization of the policy in the food economy sphere is also of great significance. It is currently manifested, for example, in the decisions concerning Zulawy, the management of the Western territories, and the activation of mountain and foothil regions. The need for this kind of regionalization is due not only to variations in the natural agricultural conditions, but also to those factors which determine the quality of life and work in the countryside. For many years now, despite objective progress, these conditions have been subject to public criticism. This is also confirmed by the course of the discussion before the 10th Congress of the United Peasant Party [ZSL] and during the report-back campaign of organizations of the PZPR in rural areas.

The government acts consistently to alleviate the differences in living conditions in towns and the countryside. The solutions in the insurance system and health protection sphere and in the area of improving the production (?of farms), bear witness to this. These measures will be broadened by the creation of a rural social fund which will enable the rural self-government, local authorities, and the farmers themselves to resolve living and social issues more effectively. The idea is to provide protection for old people and the most needy, as the first priority.

The production and social potential of the countryside can be better exploited by linking peasant farms, in processing and sales, with some sections of the production industry. The government will initiate and promote the development of those links and by the same token will speed up civilizing changes in the countryside.

May it please the house: We are continually increasing the material and financial means allocated for public services. The needs are also growing. In order to see the complete picture, it is worth recalling that the population of Poland in the 1980's increased by nearly 2 million people. The satisfaction of these needs requires not only an increase in means but above all the maximal and efficient use of that which we have at our disposal.

In the education area necessary changes of a long-term character are being prepared by the Committee of Experts for National Education. Its work will be accelerated. However, the following will be immediately carried out: a reorganization of the system for improving teachers and teachers' supervision of the research done by the ministry; an increase in the efficiency of the personnel policy, i.e. by shortening the path of academic promotion in higher education, which facilitates the flow of personnel in the whole education system, and an improvement in the structure for employing teachers; a correction to the teaching program and a decrease in the hours of classes to relieve pupils and also to better utilize teaching personnel. The means gained as a result of these measures will be used to improve the material situation of teachers in line with the expectations of that milieu.

Important organizational changes will take place in the health service. Last year the government allocated considerable means to improve health services. the publically felt results were not, however, in proportion to the financial effort. The most difficult problem continues to be the supply of medicines and sanitary articles. That is also why the production and the supply of medicines was maintained as the only operational program which was handed over to the competency of the minister of health and social care. He is going to decide about the utilization of more than $360 million allocated for the purchase of equipment, medicine, and pharmaceutical means for the Polish industry.

In agreement with interested milieux, the reform of the health system will include: first, the principles of financing health services; second, the application of organizational structures of the health service to local needs and conditions; third, a change in the payments system for employees of the health service, connecting part of the payments to the individual input of the employee or the medical team. The connection of the financing of the health service and of the principles of payments for health services and medicines with social insurance so as to make the system more efficient and avoid wasting medicines and sanitary articles is being examined.

In the sphere of culture, particularly important tasks are to expand the principle of self-financing institutions which popularize culture and cultural association alongside a simultaneous avoidance of excessive commercialization of culture.

Another important task in the cultural area is the activization of means outside of the budget for the cultural development fund. In accordance with the recommendations of the sixth Plenum of the PZPR Central Committee, work has been undertaken on introducing to culture a new legal and economic system which will force a rational utilization of means. We are also starting to prepare a program for developing culture up to the year 2000.

In the sphere of sports and specialized tourism and recreation, certain basic organizational changes are necessary. This need results from the unsatisfactory results—at times even discrediting results—of Polish sports in recent years. Without neglecting preparations for this year's olympics, the newly created Youth and Physical Culture Committee is preparing the guidelines for these changes. It is a question above all of an

improvement in the organization of record-seeking sports and a better utilization of means for that purpose, the development of mass tourism and physical culture, a more effective utilization of the existing tourism and sports base, and the elimination of elements of signs of pathology [as heard] in tourism and sports.

A particularly important sphere of social policy is the welfare benefits system. Many of its solutions become obsolete too quickly; many have an anachronistic character and others are even the source of abuse. This year the government will prepare a penetrating diagnosis of the state of welfare benefits and will present a long-term program for the state's social policy and suitable propositions for legal norms, economic decisions, and organizational solutions.

Citizen deputies, people's daily living conditions are an important social problem, among them undoubtedly the most drastic continues to be the unsatisfied housing needs. the accomplishment of the tasks of the national socio-economic plan in the sphere of housing construction is taking place alongside numerous material difficulties resulting from the level of national income: financial, personnel, and organizational. The new economic and financial system has not yet brought about the desired results in the construction of housing. Events of many years, structural and technological negligence and repeated accumulation blocks it. Therefore, on a national scale in 2 years we have only carried out 35 percent of the tasks for the 5-year period, although in some voivodships signs of improvement are increasingly clear: the construction monopoly has been broken and modern forms of organization are being actively used.

We have a full assessment of the situation. We know what hinders and what should be developed. Based on this diagnosis, the minister of construction and land use management has presented a program of contingency and directional steps, which has gained the initial acceptance of the party and government leadership. Work on its improvement is in progress so that in march it may be presented to the esteemed chamber. We know that there still continues to be a great deal of dissatisfaction concerning the meeting of the population's living needs, neverending or badly implemented refurbishments, the lack of care over cleanliness and neatness in apartments and various buildings of public (?use), sometimes unpunctual transport communication or cases of the imperfectly operating communal economy, which makes the daily life of the citizen the source of various troubles. In the case of old people, the ill, and single mothers these burdens are particularly painful.

[Text] Against this background mishandling economic imbalances, dishonest enrichment and blackmarket opportunism constitute a drastic contrast. Equally, the full operation of reform mechanisms here will most effectively remove the causes of these phenomena. However until this happens the government, making use of the resources it possesses, organizational and legal instruments and also the control apparatus, will consistently fight these phenomena. It is not enough however, simply to increase resources or administrative operations. It is necessary to use social forces, to use the energy which is inherent in the democratic system of wielding power. I want to turn to the people's councils, the territorial self-governing bodies so that they use their ruling powers and support the government in creating a social movement concerned with a dignified life for people from whom they have received a mandate; so that the councils pressure institutions and people responsible for the population's bad living conditions and force them to work competently and well. Only a united effort could bring these much demanded results.

May it please the House. In the discussion about the reform program, the thesis on the necessity of joining economic transformations with the restructuring of the organization of social life and its further democratization has received universal approval. At its sixth session the PZPR Central Committee formulated assumptions and directions for the development of democracy. They received the support of the decisive majority of participants in the referendum. In the sphere of democratizing the state system of administration, the most important thing is to further increase the role and responsibility of basic state power bodies and territorial self government and to strengthen law and order. In the current year the government, participating in this process, will present to the Esteemed Chamber, bills on the creation of the law and on associations.

In order to expand the competence and the material resources of the peoples' councils, the government will prepare, or will participate in the preparation of, measures which will make possible the practical realization of these intentions, interalia in relation to the system of replenishing the people's councils' budgets on the basis of Council of State instructions. The government intends to approach the Esteemed Chamber so that, in the framework of changes in the law on the people's councils system and territorial self government, the chamber may consider the possibility of local, experimental, independently created government assets in the form of communal assets.

I shall also present in the first half of this year proposals for changes in many legal competences of the Council of Ministers. These proposals have as their aim the removal of a number of powers from the Council of ministers, or their transference to lower level organs. The past year has brought clear progress in the sphere of national accord. This is proved by the strengthening of the PRON and favorable processes in the relations between the state and the Roman Catholic Church and other churches and religious organizations, including a broadening of the dialogue at regional level and the development of institutional forms of social consultation—in particular the Consultative Council at the office of the Council of State chairman.

The Government Presidium, together with the Executive Committee Presidium of the PRON National Council made an assessment in April last year of the degree of realization

by state administration organs of the conclusions from the first congress. After the second congress in July we met again, establishing the issues and forms of cooperation and ways to use the congresses' resolutions and conclusion in the work of the government. Suggestions put forward by the electorate during the electoral campaign t the Sejm for the ninth term of office are also being implemented. We presented a report on this to the House in November. The year 1987 brought with it both positive experiences as well as difficulties and arguments in the government's cooperation with the trade union movement.

We are aware that concern for the working people's standard of living in the conditions of essential reform faces the trade union movement with particularly difficult dilemmas. They are also our concern. It is the goal of the activity of the socialist state and its organs to have the interest of the working people in mind. Therefore, the basis of the dialogue between the government and trade union representatives should be concerned with the selection of ways and means of implementing this goal. It is the government's view that whenever our trade union partner has started with these assumptions then the resulting cooperation has brought positive effects. We rely on further understanding from the OPZZ leadership this year and on the constructive attitude of the entire trade union movement in the process of introducing the economic reform.

There has also been development, although not without controversy, in various forms of contact with farmers' sociopolitical organizations. The government attaches great importance to, and will provide the conditions for, the development of the activity of workforces' self-managements. Workers' Councils exist in nearly all state enterprise. They have over 130,000 activists. The government hopes that their commitment to matters relevant to their own enterprises will bring favorable results in production and through this a visible progress in reform.

We also expect the managements of enterprises and activists of Workers Councils to devote more attention to the development of partnership groups [grupy partnerskie]. They link, at the lowest level, an improvement in the efficiency of management in enterprises with the practice of democracy. The experience so far of the partnership groups: higher quality and productivity, savings in fuels and materials, innovations, better used working time and what follows, higher wages, testify unambigiously to the value of this form.

May it please the House. The transformations which are being carried out in Poland require new thinking. They demand enterprise, inventiveness, high qualifications, and thriftiness. They therefore require good cadres. Many directors fulfill these criteria. They successfully pass the test of new circumstances. However, the existing cadres situation does not fully correspond to the demand. The critical results of public opinion surveys on this subject are known. It is also known that some of the managers work in an outdated way. Waiting for decisions from the top, dislike of organizational changes and technological progress, conservative attitudes—all these are still, unfortunately, quite a common phenomenon. Overcoming them requires us to remove the lack of cohesion between the cadres policy and the systems of training and employment and wages. There is an urgent need to push forward the new cadres, which fully correspond to the high professional, psychological, and social criteria, and above all, the demands of the second stage of the reform.

Decisions have already been taken which define the status of managerial cadres. Legal regulations to strengthen the position of a director are being introduced. They will make it possible for the managerial cadres to get decent wages and, what is particularly important, are proportional to the economic results of enterprises. We are developing various forms of competitive selection and tests, training and tests based on management games. So far, however, competitive selection, in spite of its open character, has not become the effective form of selecting the best people. We are therefore preparing solutions which will make it possible to expand the social base for selection, eliminating formalized divisions, and perfecting the methods of selection of the best candidates.

The road to management posts will be open to the best people, chiefly to young people, regardless of what organization they belong to. The next plenum the 7th, of the PZPR Central Committee will be devoted to improving cadre policy and practice.

May it please the house, last year was marked by intensified political and diplomatic activity by Poland; by a consolidation of her international standing, position, and credibility. The considerable international activity of the SEJM gives it a qualitatively new dimension. new prospects in international relations, hope for the consolidation of world peace was created by the treaty on the elimination of medium- and short-range missiles signed by Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan. Poland also has an important share in the consolidation of security, particularly on the european continent. The focus of our activity is the plan to reduce armaments and increase confidence in Central Europe. The international reactions to poland's plan encourage our belief that it will increase our state's contribution to the dialogue on military detente.

Participation in shaping East-West relations; opposing the arms race and particularly the new round of conventional weapons in europe; combined with all-round activity to promote the consolidation of the security of our continent and the world—these remain poland's foreign policy priorities in 1988. The concurrence of the reconstruction and acceleration strategy of the Soviet Union with the processes of renewal and reform in poland are of great significance to the development of relations with the soviet union. The declaration on cooperation in the field of ideology, science, and culture signed by Wojciech Jaruzelski and Mikhail Gorbachev has become a new, basic driving force developing this cooperation.

Polish-Soviet relations have been enriched, among other things, by—from the point of view of our needs—particularly valuable direct contacts between enterprises, institutes, and the academies of sciences. Economic and trade cooperation, scientific-technical, and cultural cooperation with the socialist countries is developing successfully. Its development has been furthered by two multilateral top-level meetings and official and working contacts of heads of government.

We have also increased our activity in the warsaw treaty and the CEMA. At the 43d session of the CEMA Council, where the delegation of the polish peoples Republic constructively participated , a series of specific improvements were adopted for the machinery of cooperation and the consolidation of socialist integration within the CEMA framework.

To reach a qualitatively new stage in mutual relations, we will continue modernizing the financial and currency mechanisms and considerably intensifying new, higher forms of cooperation, particularly by creating joint enterprises and developing direct cooperation between production and scientific research units.

An important factor in our foreign policy was intensifying of relations with the People's Republic of china, and this year we intend to improve and enrich our contacts further.

Regarding relations with the developing countries, the development of political contacts last year did not bring sufficient results in respect to economic cooperation. This year therefore, we shall look for new effective forms to change this state of affairs.

In 1987 the process of normalization of political relations with the highly developed capitalist countries was advanced further. This was expressed in the contacts at the highest level with a number of parties. The improvement of the political climate and the official lifting of restrictions—effects of which are acutely felt by our economy even today—were not accompanied, however, by a breakthrough in economic relations.

The political declarations of some of the partnerswere not reflected in deeds. Discriminating practices by Western countries still effectively block the normalization of credit and financial relations and access to modern technologies. Last year we agreed to the general framework of a new agreement with commercial banks and we have entered into a temporary agreement with the Paris Club. We have also intensified cooperation with the IMF and the World Bank. However, in spite of our efforts, it has not been possible to achieve progress in the long-term comprehensive program of refinancing debts.

At the cost of enormous sacrifices we have undertaken the burden of repaying our debts, transforming the long-lasting deficit in trade turnover into a lasting surplus. Even though we are not drawing new credits, our debts are increasing and it amounts to $39 billion.

How has this increase happened? First, we are not paying in full the interest due to our creditors. In the period 1982-87 we earmarked for the servicing of the debt nearly $12 billion; if we had failed to do this the debt would by now have amounted to $55 billion. Secondly, the nominal increase in our indebtness is influenced by the fall in the value of the dollar. The effects of this fall for us are estimated to be about $10 billion. I am saying this because misunderstandings often arise about the indebtness. The problem is that our initial debt of $24 billion is increasing year by year because of the interest on the debt. We expect from our creditors—and this is also in their interest—cooperation which takes into consideration the realities of our economy.

The generally positive balance of our state's political and diplomatic activity in 1987 confirms the correctness of the fundamental directions of our foreign policy. Its principles, basic goals, and addumptions will maintain their topicality this year, too. A full report by the government on this subject will be presented to the house soon by the minister of foreign affairs.

Citizen deputies, the government is aware that realization of the tasks presented to the House will not be free of difficulties and tensions. It demands determination and courage, consistency and decisiveness, patience and flexibility. I would like to recall at this juncture the words uttered by Wojciech Jaruzelski at the sixth plenum of the PZPR. I quote: At present, the most important thing is effective activity. Practice and only practice will determine how we shall stand the test of history in this very complex situation. End of quote.

There can be no doubt that we are walking along the right path. Supporters of the reform are an enormous power. We shall go all the faster, the greater the social understanding and support is, the more fruitful the results of constructive consutlations and discussions are the wiser, the better organized and more effective the work of all poles is.

I want to thank the citizens deputies for their significant and substantial contribution to the final shape and contents of the government's program. I ask the esteemed Sejm for goodwill, understanding, and support for the government's work and the work of the entire state administration in the coming difficult but also break-through years.

Thank you for your attention. [applause]

Use of Private Cars Resumed as of 11 Feb
AU102026 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 2000 GMT 1 Feb

[Text] The Traffic Department of the General Militia Inspectorate announces: As of tomorrow, 11 February 1988, the use of private cars will be resumed in Bucharest Municipality and in all the counties of the country. On Sunday 14 February 1988 only automobiles with odd license plate numbers may travel.

Dascalescu Presents Report on 1988 Plan
AU110930 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 5 Feb p 1

[Report on Provisions of the Uniform National Plan on Socioeconomic Development and on Income and Expenditure Budgets for 1988, and on Measures To Completely Fulfill the Plan for the First Quarter and for the Whole Year—Abridged Text" presented by Constantin Dascalescu, prime minister of the Romanian Government, to the plenary meeting of the National Council of Working People held on 4 February in Bucharest]

[Text] The proceedings of the plenary meeting of the National Council of Working People—a broad and a real forum of our workers' revolutionary democracy—are currently taking place, at a time when our whole nation, with great respect and deep gratitude, is celebrating the birthday and paying homage to the more than 55 years of revolutionary activity of Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, a hero among the heroes of the nation, who, in the best possible way, conferred a new destiny on Socialist Romania, a personality who has become the symbol of patriotism and of tireless work, which he has carried out with self-denial and devotion to the homeland, the party, and to the greatest aspirations of mankind—socialism, peace, national independence, and social justice.

Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu's dynamism and energy, his steady commitment and communist devotion to the fundamental aspirations of our nation, his enthusiasm, boldness, and wisdom with which he works for the unswerving progress of our homeland, his constant concern with promoting a new style of work in all economic, political, and social fields, are the most brilliant examples for each Communist and for our whole nation.

With communist responsibility and in the spirit of the high exactingness formulated at the Party National Conference by the RCP secretary general, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, the current plenary meeting will examine and discuss the way in which the ministries, central departments, enterprises, and collective management bodies have worked to fulfill the plan and the income and expenditure budgets in January and will discuss the required measures to completely fulfill the tasks for the first quarter of 1988 and for the whole year, a decisive year for the fulfillment of the 1986-1990 plan provisions and of the objectives established by the 13th party congress.

In the first 2 years of the 5-year plan period our people, closely united around the RCP and its secretary general, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, chairman of the National Council of Working People, have obtained important results in the socioeconomic development of the country, results that are telling proof of the correctness and realistic nature of our party policy.

The uniform national plan for the country's socioeconomic development in 1988 has been elaborated with the decisive contribution of the party secretary general, who, by creatively applying the principles and generally valid truths of scientific socialism to the concrete conditions prevailing in our country, has firmly guided the work of the working people's collectives toward the decisive goals to increase the intensive economic development, particularly by resolutely implementing the programs to perfect the organization and modernization of production processes, to expand technological progress in all economic areas, more markedly increase labor productivity, reduce consumption, more efficiently use fuel, electric power, and raw and other material resources, reduce production costs—primarily material expenditures—and increase profitability in all sectors of activity.

What is significant for the dynamism of this year's economic development is the fact that we envisaged an increase in the national income of 9-10 percent, thus substantially exceeding the increase in the social product by 6-6.6 percent. Industrial output will be 7-8 percent larger than in 1987, and agricultural output will be 5-5.5 percent larger. The funds allocated for investment will be 3-3.5 percent greater than last year, and the volume of foreign trade will increase by 8-9 percent.

Important tasks have been established in the field of economic efficiency. Industrial labor productivity will increase by 8-9 percent, while total expenditures per 1,000 lei of commodity production will be reduced by 50 lei. The plan ensures the resources for further raising the material and cultural well-being of our whole nation.

This year's plan envisages an increase in our own energy, ores, and raw material resources. A substantial increase compared with 1987 will be achieved in brown coal, pit coal, crude oil, and nonferous ore extraction and in electric power generating, especially in coal-based power stations.

In the metallurgical industry, we will focus on improving the structure of steel production and of those varieties that require an advanced degree of processing. As far as the machine-building industry is concerned, a greater increase than the general increase planned for this branch has been envisaged, particularly concerning means of automation, precision mechanics, industrial electronic devices and installations, oil equipment, and highly complex energy and technological equipment.

In chemistry and petrochemistry we will more rapidly develop the fine synthesis and low-tonnage sub-branches, and we will further increase the proportion of white products resulting from the processing of crude oil.

In 1988, we will continue to develop and modernize agriculture, construction, transportation, and the other branches of our economy.

In accordance with the 13th party congress decisions, we have directed investments—through plan provisions—mainly toward completing the work to modernize and reequip the existing capacities; thus, we will ensure the better streamlining and specialization of production.

In 1988 we will greatly develop foreign economic exchanges and economic and scientific-technical cooperation with other countries. We will increase the proportion of exports of products with an advanced degree of processing; thus, we will increase the efficiency of our whole foreign trade activity. The level established in this area will enable us to obtain the necessary financial means for our economy and to further reduce our foreign debt.

Examining the activity we have carried out from the beginning of this year, in the spirit of high exactingness formulated by the RCP secretary general, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, we should mention that, although we envisaged a small increase in the plan tasks for January, they have not been completely fulfilled. The collective management bodies in some ministries, central departments, and enterprises have not worked with complete determination and have not taken all the required measures in order to eliminate shortfalls and mistakes that have persisted since last year, something that has brought about the nonfulfillment of some plan indicators in terms of quality and quantity of products, and has led to a failure to make up for the lags that occurred in production and exports in December 1987.

After presenting some figures on the fulfillment of the plan for item-specified production for January, the report emphasizes that, taking into account the shortfalls registered in the economy, we should take more resolute measures—in the way Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu has indicated—in order to speed up the industrial production process and to make use of our real conditions and reach monthly production worth 125-130 billion lei. The collective management bodies in ministries, central departments, and enterprises must resolutely work to make full use of the existing capacities, to better organize production and labor, to strictly observe the approved economic-financial norms and the fuel, energy, and raw and other material consumption norms, and to strictly observe the structure of production, as well as its destination in accordance with the plan provisions.

Within this framework, we will pay particular attention to increasing the role of central departments in managing the whole economic activity, and we will see to it that they fulfill their duties in their capacity as basic units of self-management and self-administration.

In the extractive industry, we will have to take firm action in February and in the first quarter of this year in order to increase production of coal, crude oil, and of coal-based electric power. In order to attain an amount of almost 16 million tonnes of brown coal and more than 3.7 million tonnes of pit coal in the first quarter, the council coordinating this branch, the leadership of the Ministry of Mines and of the mining combines, and all the councils of working people should adopt firm measures to ensure the continuous operation, at full capacity, of the equipment in pits and underground galleries, to put into operation the new production capacities on schedule, and to strengthen order and discipline at each workplace.

In the oil industry we should greatly increase efforts to achieve production of at least 3 million tonnes of crude oil in the first quarter of this year. At the same time, we have to make particular efforts to increase extraction from the off-shore platform in the Black Sea and ensure optimal conditions to put drilling and injection wells into operation on schedule.

In the power industry, we must fulfill the task of ensuring average power in February of 9,600 MW, of which 4,600 MW is to be from coal-based power stations. Although we produced a greater amount of electric power in the coal-based power stations in January than the amount we achieved in the same period last year, we must note that shortfalls continue to be registered in this sector. Together with the measures taken to increase electric power generation, primarily in coal-based power stations, the collective management bodies in ministries, central departments, and enterprises—particularly in metallurgy, chemistry, and the construction materials industry—should increase their efforts with a view to showing the highest responsibility in the management of all energy resources, including reusable resources.

In the processing industry, taking into account the shortfalls registered in 1987 and in January, we will take firm measures and see to it that the collective management bodies within these branches increase their efforts to speed up the process of renewing production, to optimally adapt the manufacturing process to market requirements, and to more markedly increase the degree of using material and energy resources. We are determined to work better in order to ensure the smooth flow of item-specified production and of export production in February and March, in accordance with the plan provisions, and to make up for the lags that arose last year.

In the metallurgical industry, the council coordinating the respective branch, the leadership of the ministry, the councils of working people in central units and in iron and steel combines should work with the greatest responsibility to ensure the complete supply of metals to the economy, particulary the pipes that are necessary for power eqaipment, borehole pipes, and other varieties of tubular goods required by chemistry, machine building, and the extractive industry, and superior metal sheets, bars and forged blocks of high-quality steel, highly durable cables, and other goods.

We must pay greater attention to ensuring the strict observance of the consumption norms established for coking coal, ores, iron alloys, high-melting-point materials, and other materials which are imported; to increasing the efficiency of technological processes; and to reducing losses at every stage of metallurgical processing.

The machine-building ministries, which, according to the plan provisions, should ensure over 40 percent of the country's exports in the first quarter, must eliminate the lags that were noted in January. The industrial central departments within these ministries should focus on solving the problems of ensuring contracts for the whole amount of commodity stock stipulated in the export plan and of putting into operation, on schedule, the stipulated quantity of equipment and installations, that is needed for priority economic investment projects.

In the chemical and petrochemical industry, the collective management bodies in central departments and in combines are duty-bound to increase efforts to ensure the proper and highly secure operation of all technological installations, to put into operation, without delay, the new installations in Midia and Brazi, the new copper enterprise in Zlatna, the carbon-bisulfide installations in Dej, the Freon installations in Tirnaveni, and the chemical combine in Drobeta-Turnu Severin.

In the wood processing and construction material industry, efforts must be made to fulfill the tasks stipulated for this quarter and for the whole year with increased efficiency, to observe the energy consumption norms, and to make efficient use of raw materials.

In the consumer goods industry we have to make up for lags, to work resolutely to manufacture a greater variety of products, fulfill the export production quota, improve the quality of products, and deliver products to the population in accordance with the supply program endorsed by the leadership of the party.

In the field of investments, although weather conditions were extremely favorable in January, some lags were noted due to the lack of concern on the part of collective management bodies in the recipient, ministries and in the construction bodies with preparing and properly organizing the execution of investments. Therefore, the council coordinating the investment activity, the ministries, and the executive committees in county people's councils should take all necessary measures to ensure the necessary technical documentation, strictly observe the approved consumption norms, speed up the construction work and assembly of equipment from reserve stocks, organize work in extended shifts, and make full use of equipment and manpower.

The key issue of the plan for the first quarter and the whole of 1988 is to fulfill the envisaged export targets in an exemplary manner, a compulsory task for all working people's collectives. One must openly state that export results for January are unsatisfactory. The export plan was not fulfilled, something which has caused serious hardships in securing the necessary means of payment for our imports and the envisaged revenues for the centralized state currency stocks. The poorest results were registered in the machine building industry, metallurgy, chemistry, and particularly the light industry.

As in 1987, the great lags in the fulfillment of export tasks are primarily because of insufficient concern with exactly implementing the plan tasks for item-specified production. At the same time, one must also emphasize that serious shortcomings were evident in the activity of branch coordination councils, of ministerial executive bureaus, and of management cadres from central departments, enterprises, the Ministry of Foreign Trade, and foreign trade enterprises, which failed to take responsible steps—as recommended by the party leadership—to ensure contracts in accordance with plan tasks, to prepare and start manufacturing the production earmarked for export, and to supervise the fulfillment of all existing orders. This is the reason why in the machine building, metallurgy, light industry, and timber industry, where there were not enough contracts for the entire planned production, production of an important volume of firm orders—both in hard currency and on a clearing basis with socialist countries—started late or not at all.

We failed to pay resolute attention to ensuring that our foreign trade bodies take firm steps to intensify the canvassing of foreign markets and to conclude and secure firm orders on time and in accordance with the itemized structure of the plan tasks. We will adopt firm measures to ensure that the industrial central departments exactly fulfill their duties, both with regard to concluding contracts for the planned production earmarked for export in the first quarter and the whole 1988, and to delivering it on schedule, so that we can shortly resume the normal course of fulfilling our export plan.

In keeping with the tasks set forth by the party secretary general, the collective management bodies from central departments and enterprises must give top priority to export production and its quality. We are duty-bound to take all steps to increase efficiency in promoting the export process, in charging custom duties for goods in stock, in contracting for and speedily delivering goods from redundant stocks, cashing currency dues on schedule, and strictly observing the destination of currency funds, as stipulated by plan.

In the sphere of economic efficiency—although the level of labor productivity has increased compared to the same period last year—the plan tasks were not fully achieved, which proves that there are still a number of shortcomings in our economy in organizing and running the production process, and in using the existing capacities and manpower. Total expenditures per 1,000 lei of commodity production for industry nationwide are still much higher than the planned level.

In all economic sectors, particularly the electric power industry, metallurgy, and chemistry, there is a totally unsatisfactory situation in the observation of standardized consumption levels for raw and other materials, fuel, and energy.

The fulfillment of the task to reduce total production expenditures in 1988 requires resolute steps to rationally use raw and other materials, strictly observe consumption norms, apply new technologies, further modernize production processes, and strongly increase labor productivity. In all industrial, construction, and transportation units, we must introduce a more exacting system of control and supervision of material resources, so that their release and consumption is permitted only for production whose sale is assured by firm contracts and orders, in accordance with approved consumption norms.

In order to implement Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu's orientations and guidelines and fulfill the provisions of the centralized financial plan and the state budget, it is necessary for the collective management bodies in ministries, central departments, and enterprises to efficiently apply the principles of self-management, self-administration, and self-financing and take steps to fully and smoothly secure their revenues and to pay for expenditures in strict accordance with plan tasks.

One should adopt particular measures and see to it that each economic unit observes the stipulated stock norms for raw materials, unfinished production, and processed items, in order to accelerate the turnaround speed of circulating capital and ensure a larger part of this capital from the unit's own resources.

At the same time, we are duty-bound to adopt firm measures on strict savings and greater order and discipline in administering the material and financial means entrusted to the working people's collectives in socialist units, and to consolidate the role of income and expenditure budgets in planning and running the economic-financial activity.

As of this year—at the initiative and under the direct guidance of Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu—we introduced income and expenditure budgets with an improved structure, which can allow each working people's collective to become acquainted with the administrative funds of enterprises, with results scored on the basis of self-administration, and with their obligations toward society and the banks.

It is now important to apply the established measures on exactly fulfilling the income and expenditure budgets approved by the working people's general meetings. One should supervise the execution of the budget, beginning with the sections of basic units, in order to make sure that one strictly observes the tasks stipulated by the budgets of these subunits with regard to item-specified production, material consumption, the number and structure of personnel, and the remuneration fund. The aim is to ensure that plan provisions are fulfilled within the limits of approved expenditures.

The Financial-Banking Council, the Ministry of Finance, the banks, and the entire economic, financial, and accountant apparatus in ministries, central departments, and enterprises will have to take firm steps to implement the party policy and Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu's orientations and guidelines on using funds rationally, eliminating any kind of waste, and establishing complete financial order and discipline, in order to fully implement the tasks of the centralized financial plan and of the state budget for 1988.

The fulfillment of plan provisions for the first quarter and for the whole of 1988 requires that the collective management bodies should take firm steps—as recommended by Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu at the recent Party National Conference—to eliminate shortcomings and deficiencies, strengthen the spirit of responsibility, and adopt technical and organizational measures to substantially raise labor quality in all sectors of activity.

The government pledges to you, much esteemed and beloved Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, that it will work resolutely to strengthen the role and increase the responsibility of all working people's councils from central departments, ministries, and other local bodies, so that they can concretely and expediently solve the problems raised by plan fulfillment.

In this respect, we will take immediate and firm steps to further improve the style and methods of work of the central department directors, ministers, deputy prime ministers of the government, branch coordinating councils, and all collective management bodies from ministries, central departments, and enterprises, in order to introduce a revolutionary and responsible spirit toward fulfilling party-state decisions and observing the country's laws.

The government assures the party leadership and you yourself, much esteemed Comrade secretary general, that it will act in a responsible spirit and will take all necessary steps to raise the entire activity to the level of the current requirements of our society's development, and will do everything to unflinchingly implement the decisions of the 13th Congress and the National Conference of the Party, with a view to commendably fulfilling the plan for 1988, a decisive year for the fulfillment of the 1986-90 5-year plan provisions.

Communique on 1987 Plan Fulfillment

AU101351 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 4 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

["Communique on the Fulfillment of the 1987 National Uniform Plan of Socioeconomic Development of the SR of Romania"]

[Text] In 1987, the second year of the Eighth 5-Year Plan—whose fundamental target is to put Romania among those countries with a medium level of development—the workers class, peasantry, intelligentsia, and

all our people, closely united around the RCP and its secretary general and president of the republic, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, obtained new and important results in the unflinching implementation of the objectives established by the 13th RCP Congress.

In 1987 the socioeconomic development of the homeland continued; in the multimillenia history of the Romanian people, this is the period which is richest in achievements, a period which is characterized by radical changes in the economy, in social structures, and in the people's way of thinking and working. This is the period which has entered our people's awareness as the golden age of Socialist Romania—the Nicolae Ceausescu Era.

The results obtained in 1987 strongly confirm the correctness and realism of our party's policies and of the orientations and guidelines laid down by Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, who, by creatively applying the generally valid truths of scientific socialism to the concrete conditions prevailing in our country, mobilized the creative power of our people, ensured a continuously ascending course for all sectors of socioeconomic life, and carried out outstanding revolutionary activity to solve all the major problems of economic development and to direct all the material and human potential toward steadily developing the economy and continuously raising the well-being of our nation—the supreme goal of the RCP.

Last year, under increasingly complicated international economic conditions, our country consistently promoted the policy of developing production forces and of making most profitable use of material resources and of the labor force. Today Romania has modern, competitive industry, capable of solving the most complex technical problems in all fields of activity. In agriculture, in spite of not quite optimal weather conditions, we obtained good overall results; we obtained the largest grain crop in the country's history and significant results in the output of other agricultural produce. Important successes were obtained in other sectors of socioeconomic activity and optimal conditions were ensured for the general progress of society.

The activity of scientific research, technical development, and the implementation of technological development programs, elaborated under the direct leadership of Comrade Academician Doctor Engineer Elena Ceausescu, first deputy prime minister of the government and chairman of the National Council for Science and Education, has made an outstanding contribution to intensively developing the national economy, increasingly accelerating labor productivity, and increasing economic efficiency. Important results were obtained in the field of education, culture, and arts—factors of particular importance in ensuring the continuous progress and prosperity of our country.

Romania actively participated in the international division of labor by increasing and diversifying its foreign trade exchanges and developing production sharing and technical scientific cooperation with other countries. Steadily promoting exports and ensuring the correct management of import funds resulted in an active trade balance and further decreased the foreign debt.

The application of measures included in the program to modernize production processes made a highly significant contribution to economic development. At the same time, the steps taken to firmly apply the norms for economic-financial activity, to circulate capital, and perfect and ensure the efficient functioning of the economic-financial mechanism, of the whole system of workers' self-management and self-financing and self-administration of all units, have contributed to strengthening the responsibility of management councils in ministries, central departments, and enterprises, and the working people's general meetings, for the entire socioeconomic activity of each economic unit and for the constant development and enhancement of socialist property.

We continued to firmly apply a policy of ensuring stable prices and a healthy monetary flow, and we have consolidated our budgetary, financial, and national currency balance.

The major indicators of the socioeconomic development of the SR of Romania in 1987 are as follows:

	1987 Achievements	Percentage compared to 1986 achievements
Population—thousand inhabitants Active population (employed in socioeconomic activities)	23,004	100.5
—thousand persons	10,719	100.5
Number of working personnel—thousand	7,790	100.5
Industrial production—billion lei—production goods value	1,366.2	104.5
—net production value	421.1	105.6
Agricultural production—billion lei—overall production value	263.4	102.3
—net production value	118.6	103.0
Total volume of goods transportation—million tonnes	2,821.1	103.4
Total volume of investments in the national economy —billion lei	246.6	100.9
Total volume of foreign trade—billion lei	310.7	104.8
—export-total—billion lei	177.7	108.7
—import-total—billion lei	133.0	100.0

	1987 Achievements	Percentage compared to 1986 achievements
Dynamics of labor productivity per person:—in industry		104.6
—in construction-assembly by individual and state contracts		103.0
—in rail transportation		101.8
Total expenditure per 1,000-lei commodity output in the national industry—lei	850.4	99.9
National income—billion lei	799.2	104.8
Dynamics of working personnel's average nominal remuneration, at the end of year		100.6
Dynamics of peasant's real incomes derived from work in agricultural production cooperatives and private farms, per active person		101.9
Retail sales through socialist trade network—billion lei	291.2	102.8
Expenditures for sociocultural events—total—billion lei	116.0	100.1
New housing—thousand units	110.4	102.1

(Note: Figures in this communique represent the current 1987 prices, while dynamics are calculated on the basis of comparable methodological [metodologice] conditions and prices)

At the end of 1987, the population of Romania was 23,004,000, with more than 50 percent living in municipalities and towns. The active population employed in socioeconomic activities was 10,719,000, of which 72 percent were employed in industry and other nonagricultural branches; the average number of working personnel was 7,790,000, with women amounting to about 40 percent of the total.

The increase of material production and its efficiency have ensured resources both for further developing and modernizing production forces and for improving the material and cultural level of the population.

Results attained in 1987 in the major branches and sectors are as follows:

I. [Roman one] Scientific research, technological development, and the introduction of technological progress [subhead]

In 1987, the activity of scientific research and technological development resulted in the manufacture and the introduction in production of more than 2,850 new and modernized types of machines, equipment, appliances, and installations and 1,060 materials and consumer goods.

Some 1,775 technologies and new systems of mechanization and automation were taken into production and were improved, particularly in the fields of chemistry, metallurgy, machine building, electrical engineering, and electronics; the production was also updated in the processing industry, so that 35.7 percent of the commodity production represented new and updated products, manufactured in the first 2 years of the current 5-year plan period.

Scientific research continued to increase its contribution to developing geological activity, using new sources of energy and sources of energy that regenerate themselves, and implementing the program for using reusable materials and for reconditioning spare parts and subassemblies.

Scientific research made a significant contribution to solving problems connected with the requirements of the new agrarian revolution. Scientific research increased its contribution to implementing the program for irrigation and other land improvement operations and for ensuring the optimal distribution of production and the complex mechanization of operations.

The work to formulate specifications for and standardize products and technologies continued and additional resources for increasing labor productivity, reducing production costs, and ensuring the proper supply of the production sectors with technological and material goods were created.

We ensured the closer blending of applied research and basic research, thus increased the contribution of science to promoting technical progress throughout the economy.

II. Industry [subhead]

In 1987, we increased production capacity by commissioning new projects and by completing important work to modernize and reequip many units. In this way we increased the energy and raw material base of the country.

The production output attained in industry totalled 1,366.2 billion lei, a 4.5 percent increase compared with 1986. The value of production outputs attained in the first 2 years of the current 5-year plan period amounts to an about two-fold increase compared with the entire production obtained in the 1951-65 period.

Greater concern was shown for increasing production in the branches of the extractive and energy industry. The production of net coal reached 51.5 million tonnes; 25.3 billion cubic meters of methane gas were extracted and 74.1 billion kWh of electric energy was generated. In spite of all this, the plan provisions have not been fulfilled and shortfalls have been registered particularly in the extraction of crude oil and of brown coal and in the production of coal-based

electrical power; these shortfalls have mostly been caused by the fact that the planned repairs and modernization operation were not completed on schedule and there was a certain delay in putting the new capacities into operation.

In accordance with the 13th RCP Congress decisions further steps were taken in 1987 to implement the party policy of ensuring the harmonious development of all the counties and localities of the country. Higher development rates than the national average were achieved in industrial production output in 19 counties and in Bucharest Municipality—particularly in Mehedinti, 14.5 percent; Ialomita, 14.2 percent; Calarasi, 11.6 percent; Salaj, 8.0 percent; Gorj, 7.5 percent; Buzau, 7.0 percent; Vrancea,6.4 percent; Satu Mare, 6.2 percent. This has brought new and positive changes in the regional development of the forces of production and leveled out the socioeconomic development of the counties.

Labor productivity in industry increased by 4.6 percent compared with 1986. Thus the whole production increase was attained through the increase of the labor productivity.

Costs per 1,000 lei worth of production output in the national industry were 0.70 lei lower than the previous year. Thus total savings worth 749 million lei were obtained.

Although overall good results were scored in industry, the plan provisions were not entirely fulfilled, mainly because of the nonfulfillment of the plan in the first quarter of 1987—caused by the harsh winter conditions—and because of shortfalls in certain sectors. Thus, many units did not fulfill the plan provisions and did not take firm action to prepare and smoothly fulfill the item-specified production, particularly that earmarked for export, to introduce the new capacities into production, to achieve the planned parameters of the new capacities on schedule, to introduce and expand—in accordance with the plan provisions—modern technologies with a lower rate of fuel, energy, and of raw and other material consumption, to firmly apply the financial norms, and to exactly implement the established modernization and organization programs in all the units. All this had a negative impact on observance of the consumption norms and rules and brought about the nonfulfillment of the plan provisions regarding labor productivity, production costs, material expenditure, and economic efficiency.

III. Agriculture [subhead]

In 1987 we obtained good results in the intensive development of our socialist agriculture and the implementation of the targets of the new agrarian revolution.

In accordance with the program provisions for guaranteeing sure and stable crops, we carried out important land improvement operations. In the sphere of irrigation, small and large-scale improvement work was carried out on an area of 400,000 hectares, including 172,000 hectares of completed operations or those which are close to completion and will be commissioned in Spring 1988; thus the overall irrigated area amounted to 3.5 million. Drainage work was carried out 141.7 thousand hectares and anti-soil erosion work on 126.8 thousand hectares. At the end of 1987 the area improved through drainage operations amounted to 3,259,500 hectares and the area on which anti-soil-erosion works were carried out amounted to 2,349,000 hectares.

In 1987 agriculture was supplied with 1,338,300 tonnes of nitric, phosphoric, and potassic chemical fertilizers in terms of active ingredients and with other materials to combat pests. At the same time greater amounts of organic fertilizers were applied.

The vegetable agricultural production in 1987, obtained under less favorable climate conditions, was higher than the previous years and amounted to 31.7 million tonnes of grain.

The average production per hectare in case of the major crops was much higher than in 1986. Many state and cooperative agricultural units achieved production of over 8,000 kg wheat and barley per hectare and more than 20 tonnes of corn cobs per hectare.

At the end of 1987, the number of livestock in state agricultural enterprises and in the agricultural cooperatives was higher than in 1986. The increase in the number of livestock and in average outputs has led to the achievement of a higher animal production in 1987 compared with 1986.

This increase in agricultural production ensured deliveries of greater amounts of the major vegetable agricultural products and animal products to the state stock than in 1986.

The results in agriculture in 1987 could have been better if all the agricultural units had showed greater concern with concluding on schedule and in optimal conditions all the works of preparing the soil, sowing, tending to the crops, organizing the harvesting in time and without losses, and ensuring the increase and the feeding of livestock.

IV. Silviculture and Water Management [subhead]

In silviculture, in 1987 further actions were taken to implement the provisions for this year of the national program for preserving and developing the forestry stock up to the year 2010. Forest regeneration work was carried out on 53,200 hectares. Actions continued to promote valuable indigenous species, which amounted to 43.5 percent of the newly afforested area.

In the field of water management in 1987 new multipurpose reservoirs totalling 230.7 million cubic meters were commissioned and waterway regulation work was performed on a stretch of 332.7 km, anti-flood damming was carried out on a stretch of 196.1 km to protect population centers, economic units, and an agricultural area of 18.2 thousand hectares.

V. Transportation and Telecommunications [subhead]

In 1987, the volume of goods transported was 2,821.1 million tonnes, that is 3.4 percent higher than the previous year. The volume of passenger transportation reached almost 60 billion passengers per kilometer.

The material base of transportation for general purposes increased through the addition of 34 diesel and electric locomotives, 1,816 freight cars with the equivalent of 4 axles, 152 passenger railroad cars, some non-propelled river vessels with a capacity of 119,500 tonnes, 10 river tugboats and pusher tugs, and maritime vessels with a capacity of 433,700 dwt.

In spite of good results scored in this field during certain periods, some shortcomings were evident in the field of transportation, particularly in the activity of the ocean-going fleet, as regards the full utilization of current resources the improvement of the goods transportation flow, the modernization of existing technologies, and the observance of consumption norms.

The volume of post and telecommunication activities in 1987 increased by 3.4 percent compared with 1986, especially through an intensive utilization of existing resources.

VI. Investments-Construction [subhead]

In accordance with provisions of the uniform national plan for the country's socioeconomic development, investments were mainly channeled toward commissioning projects that contribute to: increasing the raw material and energy base, implementing programs for the modernization of production, raising the technical and qualitative level of products, better utilizing raw and other material resources, increasing the competitiveness of Romanian products on foreign markets, and raising the overall economic efficiency.

In 1987, the total volume of investments in the national economy was 246.6 billion lei, 0.9 percent higher than in 1986. More than 225 billion lei worth of fixed assets were put into operation and 309 important industrial, agricultural-zootechnical, and other productive units were introduced in the economic flow. Several projects of nationwide importance were commissioned, such as: the rail and road ensemble of Danube bridges, including the Cernavoda bridge, which is the largest European bridge of this kind build across the Danube; the Fetesti bridge across the branch of the river Borcea; the Fetesti-Cernavoda motorway and railway section; the new Poarta Alba-Midia-Navodari canal; the Deva-Brad railway line; and so forth.

The program of building dwellings and technical and urban facilities assets in Bucharest, in other municipalities and towns, and in villages continued at a steady pace. More than 110,000 dwellings were completed, of which almost 16,000 were in communes. Important urban development projects were completed in Bucharest: the new Piata Unirii-Pipera section of the subway line No 2; the comprehensive development of the Dimbovita River, including the completion of the reservoir, the regulation of the waterway that flows through the capital, and the construction of various bridges; and the Baneasa, Victoriei, Marasesti, Lujerului, Unirii, and other underground passages.

VII. Foreign Economic Relations [subhead]

The volume of foreign trade, estimated at the current trade rate, amounted to 310.7 billion lei; in 1987, our country had economic and cooperation relations with 148 states. The volume of exports in 1987 was 177.7 billion lei, that is, 8.7 percent higher than in 1986. The structure of our exports has further improved, greater proportion of export goods have a high degree processing—machines, transportation equipment and means, chemical products, and consumer industrial goods—which made up more than 63 percent of the total volume of exports.

Export plan provisions were not fully attained, due to both the unfavorable situation on world markets and to deficiencies in the activity of certain ministries, central departments, and enterprises—which failed to manufacture the production earmarked for export on schedule—to the technical and qualitative level of certain products, and to shortcomings in surveying foreign markets and concluding the planned number of commercial contracts.

In spite of the 1987 difficulties caused by restrictive and discriminatory practices in international economic relations, the foreign trade activity has led to a hard currency trade balance surplus of $2.8 billion, thus facilitating the repayment of an important part of our foreign debt.

VIII. The People's Material and Intellectual Living Standard [subhead]

The development and modernization of material production and the increased economic efficiency in all spheres of activity were reflected in the achievement of a national income volume of 799.2 billion lei and, on this basis, in the growth of the well-being of the whole nation.

The remuneration fund for the working personnel was 283.8 billion lei in 1987, which means that it was higher than in 1986. At the end of December 1987, the working personnel received cash advances worth 2.2 billion lei from the working people's fund for sharing in the fulfillment of production targets, profits, and profit distribution. The average net nominal pay at the end of 1987 amounted to 3,035 lei. By firmly applying a policy of stable prices, the evolution of the index of prices and service tariffs has been below the planned level.

The peasantry's nominal incomes (in money and produce) derived from work in agricultural production cooperatives and private farms, calculated per active person, increased by 1.9 percent in 1987 compared with the previous year.

An important role in raising the people's material and intellectual living standard was played by the benefits drawn by the people from the funds allocated to financing sociocultural activities, which in 1987 amounted to 116.0 billion lei. These funds were used for paying pensions, children allocations and allowances, scholarships for pupils and students, and allowances for temporary loss of the ability to work, and for developing education, culture, medical care, and so forth.

In 1987, the average state social security and old age pension for full length of service was 1,848 lei, that is 1.7 percent higher than in the previous year.

Retail sales of goods through socialist trade outlets totaled 291.2 billion lei, that is, 2.8 percent higher than in 1986. Food sales (including public catering) increased by 2.8 percent and nonfood sales by 2.7 percent.

The volume of paid customer services provided by socialist units—including transportation, telephone, and community administration—totaled 64.7 billion lei.

All grades of education continued to improve and modernize, in accordance with national economic requirements for skilled manpower, expanding and diversifying the forms of linking education with production and research.

At the beginning of the 1987/88 school-year, there were 5.5 million students in school, which represents 24.2 percent of the country's population.

In keeping with requirements for skilled manpower, in 1987 the national economy employed more than 300,000 skilled workers from vocational schools, high schools, and higher education.

Important results were scored in the field of culture. In 1987, 29 long feature movies and 569 scientific and artistic short-feature documentaries were produced; more than 3,000 books, newspapers, magazines, and other publications were printed in more than 290 million copies.

The material base of medical services continued to develop. New hospitals, dispensaries, and polyclinics were put into service. These along with supplies of modern medical equipment and technology and a larger number of medical and health personnel, have contributed to improving medical care for the people. The number of hospital beds has reached the figure of 214,300. Medical care for the population was ensured in 1987 by 48,300 physicians. The technical-material base of tourism, recreation and spa treatment was further developed and modernized.

The achievements attained in 1987 lay a sound foundation for a high rate of socioeconomic development in 1988 and strongly emphasize the correctness of our party's policy and of orientations and guidelines set forth by the party secretary general and president of the Republic, which ensure the unflinching implementation of the historic decisions adopted by the 13th Party Congress.

On the basis of the conclusions arising from the analysis of the way in which the plan provisions have been fulfilled in the first 2 years of the current 5-year plan and of the decisions adopted by the Party National Conference—with a view to ensuring the optimal fulfillment of the plan for 1988 and for the 1986-90 period—decisive actions are required in order to eliminate all the shortfalls that have been manifested and to apply all the established measures for raising the entire economic activity to new levels of quality and efficiency.

In accordance with the recommendation of the party secretary general, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, we should focus on the exemplary implementation of the programs of introducing and expanding the latest scientific and technological discoveries in all fields of activity. Decisive actions are required in order to make more efficient use of the strong scientific and technological base of our country, in order to implement in an exemplary way the measures included in the programs for perfecting and modernizing the whole economy.

In industry we must pay greater attention to developing the raw materials and energy base, achieving the item-specified production in all the planned varieties and particularly the production earmarked for exports, making a better use of the production capacities, completing repair and overhaul works on schedule, further reducing consumption and making a better use of raw and other materials, fuel, and energy, ensuring a better organization of production and labor, strengthening order and discipline, and ensuring a more marked increase of labor productivity.

In agriculture, decisive measures are required in order to unflinchingly fulfill the objectives of the new agrarian revolution and markedly increase vegetable and animal agricultural production, in accordance with the plan provisions and with the development programs envisaged for each sector and each branch of activity.

In order to implement the targets envisaged for 1988, we must pay particular attention to fulfilling the investment program, by commissioning all planned projects and substantially reducing the share of construction in the overall investments.

In order to facilitate Romania's more active participation in the world exchange of values, it is necessary to give priority to the production earmarked for export and expand production sharing. We must pay due attention to increasing the efficiency of foreign trade and better capitalizing on our products on foreign markets, in order to achieve an equal foreign trade and payments balance, in accordance with plan provisions.

In order to increase the people's living standard — in close relationship with the further harmonious development of the national economy — we must attach particular importance to fulfilling the provisions of the program on self-management and self-sufficiency, so as to ensure proper public supplies of staples and industrial consumer goods.

In order to consistently and firmly apply the economic-financial mechanism, all ministries, central departments, enterprises, and financial-banking bodies should take all necessary steps to reduce material expenditures, increase efficiency and profitability, constantly strengthen economic-financial self-administration, set up their own resources for self-financing and for giving material incentives to the working people, and also ensure the necessary resources for the development of the national economy.

In keeping with orientations established by the Party National Conference, we must take steps to constantly develop and expand the revolutionary workers democracy and improve our management and planning system, proceeding from the need to increase the role and functions of the state in running all sectors of activity.

The new stage we are covering now requires that, under the leadership of party bodies and organizations, we should ensure a better functioning of the working people's councils and general meetings, so that each collective—in its capacity as owner, producer, and end-user—must be responsible for the entire activity.

Closely united around the party and its secretary general and president of the Republic, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, all our working people and the entire nation will act in a spirit of revolutionary firmness to fulfill, in an exemplary manner, the 1988 plan, which ensures the continuation and enhancement of the process of modernizing and intensively developing all branches and sectors of activity, increasing the national income and the people's well-being, and promoting Romania's firm progress toward socialism and communism.

The Supreme Council of Socioeconomic Development

The Council of Ministers

The State Planning Committee

The Central Statistics Directorate

New Heavy Equipment Minister Appointed

AU091001 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 4 Feb 88 p 5

[Text] By presidential decree, Comrade Gheorghe Dinu has been released from the office of minister of heavy equipment, and Comrade Radu Paul Paunescu has been appointed to this office.

Andrei Meets U.S. Deputy Secretary Whitehead

AU090959 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 7 Feb 88 p 5

[Text] On Saturday [6 February] morning, Comrade Stefan Andrei, Romanian deputy prime minister, received U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead, who paid a visit to our country.

During the conversation, the two sides discussed some aspects of Romanian-American economic relations.

Roger Kirk, U.S. ambassador in Bucharest, attended the meeting.

Moroccan Trade Minister Pays Official Visit

Meets With Dascalescu

AU102051 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1942 GM 10 Feb 88

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES 10/2/1988—Constantin Dascalescu, prime ministerr of Romania, received on February 10 Abd el-Azmani, minister of trade and industry [title as received], of Morocco, now visiting Romania.

It was assessed during the talk that in the spirit of the summit understandings, the Romanian-Moroccan relations recorded upward course in recent years. Starting from the two countries' continuously increasing economic potential, from the necessities of their development programs, new possibilities were analyzed for the amplification off the mutually advantageous cooperation between Romania and Morocco in domains of mutual interest, the increase and diversification of the goods exchanges.

Meets With Vaduva, Totu

AU102057 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1945 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES 10/2/1988—8 through 10 February Bucharest hosted talks between Romanian Minister of Foreign Trade and International Economic Cooperation, Ilie Vaduva, and the minister of trade and industry of the Kingdom of Morocco, Abd el-Azmani, who looked into ways to develop the collaboration and economic cooperation in domains of joint interest, and to expand and diversify bilateral commercial exchanges.

At the conclusion of the talks, the two ministers signed the protocol regarding the exchanges of goods between Romania and Morocco over the 1988-1992 interval.

The Moroccan guest met Foreign Minister Ioan Totu, approaching questions [as received] regarding the development of the bilateral economic relations, and current aspects of the international life, and had interviews with leaders of the Ministry of the Machine Building Industry, the Ministry of Heavy-Equipment Industry, the Ministry of Transports and Telecommunications and the Ministry of Finances. He also visited economic, social and cultural units in Bucharest and Brasov Municipalities.

Authenticity of SPIEGEL Telegram Doubted

LD102002 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1900 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, February 10 (TANJUG)—TANJUG learned today that the authenticity of the 1942 telegram in which reference is made to Wehrmacht Lieutenant Kurt Waldheim has been placed in doubt, but that authentic documents exist proving that he was a member of the Wehrmacht intelligence.

Over the past few days, the Yugoslav and the world public raised the question of the authenticity of the photocopy of the mentioned telegram, published in the West-German weekly DER SPIEGEL. The telegram relates to Waldheim's role in the transport of civilians captured on Mt Kozara to concentration camps.

TANJUG has also learned that a commission of historians, archivists and other experts, set up by competent Yugoslav organs, came to the conclusion that the telegram is not an authentic document and that the suspicion of its being a forgery is founded.

TANJUG has also learned that the Belgrade district public prosecutor has instructed a competent court to open an investigation in order to determine the perpetrator of the criminal act of forging the archival document.

It is known, however, that there are many documents in Yugoslav archives showing that Kurt Waldheim had been a member of the Wehrmacht higher command intelligence. The documents also mention Waldheim's activities on the territory of Yugoslavia in World War Two. The Yugoslav Foreign Secretariat spokesman recently said that the documents are equally accessible to all interested Yugoslav and foreign research workers and institutes.

Many research workers continue to examine archival materials in an attempt to determine whether there are new documents on the Austrian president's war past.

Plenca Rejects Doubts

LD101118 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1036 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 10 Feb (TANJUG)—Dusan Plenca, the Yugoslav writer who first brought to light the existence of a telegram showing that Kurt Waldheim was connected with mass deportations of the civilian population in Kozara to work and death camps, and who announced that he would find the original of that document, has stated that the claims by the West German weekly 'STERN' to the effect that the telegram from an Ustasha colonel was forged, are unfounded and tendentious. "We are dealing with a planned maneuver to render worthless an item of historical proof" said Plenca, adding that he will "prove this absolutely".

'STERN' yesterday announced that in its next issue, which comes out tomorrow, it willl publish the findings of the Criminological Institute in Stuttgart according to which the telegram, it is argued, was "written with a typewriter produced at the earliest in 1949", that is, 7 years after it was supposedly sent.

Plenca Refuses Comment

AU111053 Paris AFP in English 1036 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 11 (AFP)—Yugoslav historian Dusan Plenca who reportedly found a telegrom implicating Austrian President Kurt Waldheim in Nazi war crimes in 1942 refused to comment on reports Thursday that the document was a fake.

He obtained a photocopy of the telegram "from the Belgrade archives of the Institute of Military History through totally legal means 20 or 30 days ago," Mr. Plenca told AFP.

The TANJUG news agency reported Wednesday that an official committee of historians, archivists and other experts had failed to authenticate the document and said a judicial probe had been ordered to find the forger.

"It is likely that (the telegram) is a fake," TANJUG quoted the experts as saying. But it has not become clear if the committee examined the original or a photocopy.

Mr. Plenca said he handed a photocopy over to the panel, adding that he was "certain" he saw the original.

According to the committee, Yugoslav archives hold numerous documents on Mr. Waldheim's intelligence activities with the German army in Yugoslavia.

The telegram was sold to the West German news magazine DER SPIEGEL by Yugoslav journalist Dank Vasovic, a friend of Mr. Plenca's and published last week.

When the West German magazine STERN shed doubt on the document's authenticity Tuesday, Mr. Plenca insisted it was not a fake.

Late Wednesday Mr. Vasovic expressed "surprise and shock" at the committee's findings.

He told AFP he had no reason to doubt the goodwill of the panel, but there was no reason either to think that Mr. Plenca was a forger.

"I cannot find a reason why Dusan Plenca should have committed such an act to erase 64 years of his life and his name as a respected scientists," Mr. Vasovic said.

The journalist added that when he offered the photocopy to potential buyers he did not hide the fact that he had never seen the original. "Therefore I do not feel responsible," he said.

Further on Mikulic's Official Visit to Canada

Talks With Mulroney

LD101917 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1821 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Ottawa, February 10 (TANJUG)—Official Canadian-Yugoslav talks opened here today with a meeting between Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Yugoslav Premier Branko Mikulic.

As a result of last year's impressive rise of 72 per cent in Yugoslav exports to Canada, the two sides concluded that there are scopes and readiness for economic relations to be further promoted. Annual two-way trade currently standing at 80 million dollars is considered to be rather modest.

Mikulic's visit to Canada reopens the top-level dialogue between the two countries established in 1971 when President Tito visited Canada, and which continued in 1982 with President [as received] Trudeau's visit to Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia is particularly interested in tapping Canada's experience in the fields of transportation, communications, electronics and other fields in which Canada has achieved a high technological level. The two countries are also interested in joint investments and business deals on third markets.

Both sides believe that the large number of Canadians of Yugoslav origin of whom there are over 300,000, can constructively influence the two countries relations. It has been noted that the modest number of 30,000 tourists from Canada who visited Yugoslavia last year does not reflect the real interest Canadians have in Yugoslavia.

There is a mutual wish to promote cultural cooperation. Proposals have been made that a department for the Serbo-Croatian and Macedonian languages be opened at Canadian universities and other initiatives for ways of getting mutually acqainted have been launched.

Canada and Yugoslavia have very close or identical stands on many international issues, particularly on north-south relations, and on Africa's south.

Talks Continue

LD102349 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2328 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Ottawa, Feb 10 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Prime Minister Branko Mikulic and Canada's Prime Minister Brian Mulroney continued their talks here today in an atmosphere of complete frankness, mutual respect and marked cordiality.

They discussed bilateral relations and international topics. A special tribute was paid to Yugoslavia for its role in East-West and North-South relations, as well as in the movement of nonalignment.

The Canadian prime minister expressed special interest in the forthcoming meeting of the Balkan countries' foreign ministers in Belgrade.

Today's meeting was also an opportunity to discuss Canada's role as a host to a meeting of the world's seven leading industrial countries in Toronto in June.

It was noted during the talks that the improvement in East-West relations has so far failed to produced initiatives aimed at alleviating the position of the developing and the debtor countries.

A positive role that Yugoslav immigrants in Canada could have as a bridge in the two countries' friendly relations was particularly stressed during the meeting.

An estimated 300,000 citizens of Yugoslav origin currently live in Canada.

Mulroney highly favourably described the role of Yugoslav immigrants in Canada's development and said that no one will be allowed to disturb the development of the two countries' friendly relations.

Mikulic Dinner Toast

LD111037 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0339 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Ottawa, 11 Feb (TANJUG)—In Ottawa's Congress Center last night Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney hosted a formal dinner in honor of FEC President Branko Mikulic and members of the Yugoslav delegation on a visit to Canada. [passage omitted]

In response to Prime Minister Mulroney's toast, Branko Mikulic said that relations between Yugoslavia and Canada "stood the test of the greatest ordeals that afflicted mankind in this century—the two world wars in which Yugoslavia and Canada were on the same side, thus making a considerable contribution to the final victory. We cannot forget the merits of Major Jones, Surgeon Dafo, and other Canadians who took part in the battles of the national liberation army and partisan units of Yugoslavia led by Marshal Tito. Traditional friendship continues to be developed through meetings between our two countries' top statesmen.

"Yugoslavia and Canada provide a sound example of cooperation on an equal footing and of mutual respect. Our two countries, which consciously and far-sightedly opted for friendship, have shown understanding for differences in each other's sociopolitical system and international position and at the same time for similarities in their struggle for

peace, security, and equality in international relations, and also of their federal system, multicultural setup, and the right to freedom and equality of the nations and nationalities, and of each individual."

Mikulic noted with great pleasure that the talks in Ottawa reiterated an interest on both sides in expanding economic relations between the two countries, in joint investment projects, and in developing higher forms of cooperation in the production sector, as well as in developing cooperation in development projects and in scientific and technological development.

"In order to fulfill these goals, Yugoslavia will fully cooperate and remain open to Canadian firms and institutions and their interests. At the same time," Mikulic added, "we expect Canada even more to open its market to Yugoslav products and technology and to take part in joint ventures on third markets where both Canada and Yugoslavia enjoy a high reputation and have achieved exceptional results individually but where, by cooperating with each other, they can also become strong and very successful partners."

Mikulic stressed that "the present period, marked by the opening up of the process of dialogue and negotiations provides hope for a more stable peace and better relations among countries and peoples."

"It is of importance that our two countries, each in its own way and according to their individual resources, are making an active contribution to international cooperation and security, and that there is a proximity in their views on many topical international issues. In its position as a nonaligned, European, Mediterranean, and developing country, Yugoslavia genuinely supports efforts toward safeguarding peace and security, speeding up the development of developing countries, curbing the arms race, and bringing about disarmament. Together with other nonaligned countries we have taken part in numerous initiatives aimed at fulfilling these goals. We will continue to do so in the future."

Mikulic, however, expressed concern over the fact that positive developments in international relations have had no effect on the complex issues of international economic relations and on the increasingly difficult situation in developing countries.

"We highly appreciate the Canadian Government's recent decision to write off some of the foreign debts owed by developing countries. This is an example to be followed by other developed countries and to serve as an incentive to them to make their specific contribution to the efforts to resolve this serious problem confronting the international community."

"We have every reason to be confident about prospects for our bilateral cooperation, which is to the advantage of the ideals of freedom, justice, and equality to which our people, each according to their own circumstances, have on so many occasions shown their adherence. Canadian citizens of Yugoslav origin constitute a natural link in our friendship and efforts to achieve all this," FEC President Branko Mikulic said in his toast.

Further Reportage on Visit of Iraqi Minister

Mojsov Receives 'Aziz

LD101541 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 10 Feb (TANJUG)—President of the SFRY Presidency Lazar Mojsov today received Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

In a warm and friendly conversation a high assessment was given to the development of relations between Yugoslavia and Iraq, both on the bilateral and the international plane and within the Nonaligned Movement. The two sides stressed their mutual interest in overcoming, by joint efforts, certain difficulties in economic cooperation and thus creating even more favorable conditions for the achievement of better results. During the conversation a wide exchange of opinions took place on the situation in the region from the point of view of the efforts of the international community and in particular of the Security Council and the Nonaligned Movement to end the Iran-Iraq war.

President Mojsov and the Iraqi guest also discussed the need for even greater involvement by the Nonaligned Movement, particularly in solving international economic problems faced by the nonaligned and other developing countries. Also taking part in the conversation were Budimir Loncar, secretary for foreign affairs, and other officials.

Economic Talks With Zemljaric

LD102109 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1502 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 10 Feb (TANJUG)—Janez Zemljaric, vice president of the FEC, and Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, today agreed that overall economic cooperation between the two nonaligned and friendly countries was developing successfully despite certain objective economic difficulties confronting both countries.

In the course of the talks, which took place in Belgrade within the framework of Tariq 'Aziz's visit, both sides stressed their desire to see economic cooperation between the two countries advanced and a quicker solution of the existing problems. In the light of this, the two sides agreed to hold additional talks in Belgrade at the end of this month on ways to further develop economic, scientific, and technical cooperation.

Final Talks With Loncar

LD101621 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1527 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 10 (TANJUG)—The situation in the Middle East, the Palestinian revolt in the occupied Arab territories and the forthcoming activities of the nonaligned countries today occuppied a dominant place in closing talks in Belgrade between the foreign ministers of Yugoslavia and Iraq, Budimir Loncar and Tariq 'Aziz.

In the first round of talks last night Loncar and 'Aziz discussed bilateral cooperation and the Iraq-Iran war.

The Yugoslav-Iraqi ministerial level dialogue confirmed the importance of the all-people's revolt of the Palestinian population in the territories occupied by Israel. Latest developments there clearly show that the continuation of the status quo is impossible and that the Palestinian revolt has affected possitively the evolution of stands in Israel. Loncar and 'Aziz have stated the conviction that the Palestinian resistance now boosts those forces in the Israeli society which have been lately urging a comprehensive, peaceful, long-term solution to the Middle East crisis and its current major issue, the Palestinian question.

Yugoslavia and Iraq are unanimous in the assessment that an international conference on the Middle East is the best way to achieve this and that the proposal on its convening has an ever growing number of supporters in the world.

The conference should be held under the U.N. auspices, with the Palestinian Liberation Organisation participating on equal footing. The latest developments in the occupied Arab territories have confirmed the irreplaceable political role and legitimity of the PLO as the only true representative of the Palestinian people, Loncar and 'Aziz stressed.

As far as the Movement of Non-Alignment activities are concerned, Loncar and 'Aziz stated the conviction that in pending international trends room expands for an even more dynamic and constructive activity of the movement of non-alignment in relation to a large number of major problems confronting the world.

The talks particularly focused on the pending conference of the non-aligned countries foreign ministers in Cyprus and the non-aligned activities in preparations of the political platform and other documents for the ninth non-aligned summit.

Baghdad Radio Report of Visit

JN102014 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Lazar Mojsov, president of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, received in Belgrade today Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who is on a working visit to Yugoslavia. Tariq 'Aziz told an INA correspondent in Belgrade that he conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings to President Mojsov, asserting the strength of the relations of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and Yugoslavia and Iraq's readiness to continue and promote these relations. 'Aziz said that discussions during the meeting dealt with developments in the situation in the region, the continuation of the Iranian aggression against Iraq, and the current debates in the UN Security Council on the implementation of Resolution No 598. Discussions also dealt with the situation of the Nonaligned Movement, the activity of Iraq and Yugoslavia in the movement, and the need to coordinate between the two countries to boost the movement's objectives.

'Aziz added that discussions also dealt with the situation in the Middle East, particularly the Palestinian Arab people's valiant uprising, in addition to international issues of mutual concern. He said that President Mojsov asked him to convey his greetings to President Saddam Husayn, as well as his wishes for Iraq's continued progress.

Tariq 'Aziz met with Janez Zemljaric, vice president of the Federal Executive Council and head of the Yugoslav side to the joint Iraqi-Yugoslav committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, this morning. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations in all fields and affirmed the two parties' desire to continue and promote the close bilateral relations of cooperation.

Tariq 'Aziz this morning completed talks began yesterday with Budimir Loncar, federal secretary of the Yugoslav Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs. 'Aziz described these talks as cordial and characterized by each party's understanding of the other party's stand.

Minister Departs SFRY

LD101916 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1705 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 10 Feb (TANJUG)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Belgrade today by special plane at the end of a 2-day official visit to Yugoslavia.

At Belgrade airport, the eminent guest was seen off by Budimir Loncar, federal foreign secretary, and other officials from the federal secretariat for foreign affairs.

Mojsov Cables Khamene'i on Iran's National Day

LD111117 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1001 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 11 Feb (TANJUG)—On behalf of the SFRY Presidency, Presidency President Lazar Mojsov has sent Sayed 'ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic

Republic of Iran, a telegram expressing cordial congratulations on the occasion of Iran's national day, as well as best wishes for the prosperity of nonaligned Iran's friendly people.

DELO Criticizes Mamula Visit to Ethiopia

AU101854 Ljubljana DELO in Slovene
4 Feb 88 p 16

[DELO correspondent Avgust Pudgar report: "Admiral Amidst Famine"]

[Text] The news that world press agencies have been carrying from Ethiopia recently has been chiefly about the dramatic situation affecting 5 million Ethiopians because of drought and famine in the northern and central regions of the country. Reports on food consignments arriving in the stricken regions and on sporadic attacks on the trucks transporting the aid by the resistance movements in Eritrea and Tigre reach the world. Yugoslavia could not be traced among the food donors because the aid it sent was too small to be mentioned or because none was sent.

However, the press agencies conveyed a report that Admiral Branko Mamula, Yugoslav defense minister, visited Addis Ababa and with his Ethiopian counterpart and signed an agreement on military cooperation. At least in this part of the world and in Kenyan newspapers, Yugoslavia appears infrequently, and when it does, it appears as a rule in sad and worrying contexts. The report on the defense minister's visit particularly stood out because it was somehow published at the same time as reports on a quarter-million tonne wheat shipment from the USSR to the starving in Ethiopia, and on five light aircraft sent from Poland to deliver aid to inaccessible places in the interior. We do not know whether the sequence of the reports published was intentional or not, but it is known that the USSR is the chief supplier of arms to Ethiopia.

It is also known that travelers to Ethiopia at present are predominantly people and teams who want to help and to mitigate the consequences of the tragedy caused by the drought and famine, particularly in the northern and central regions, where the situation is catastrophic. Some people say that it is even worse than during the tragedy 3 and 4 years ago, when supposedly about 1 million people died. Death now threatens 5 million people, and private, state, and international organizations from numerous countries (as a rule from the West, which is simply an incontrovertible fact), together with the Ethiopian organization for aid and rehabilitation, are striving hard to save as many people as possible from death.

Along with all this news, press agencies report that a Yugoslav military delegation headed by the defense minister is visiting the Ethiopian capital. Nothing has been said about the content of the talks and about the kind and quantity of weapons that may have been agreed upon, because everything has remained behind strictly closed doors. The context of the Yugoslav military delegation's visit to Ethiopia is grotesque and therefore it is no wonder that it causes ironical questions in Western circles (among journalists and others) whether Yugoslav arms are intended as aid to the starving. Other questions arise out of the knowledge that the value of Yugoslav military industry exports amounts to about $2 billion, which places it toward the top of the list of arms merchants, particularly in the developing and nonaligned countries. These circles link the arms trade with the deep economic crisis and wonder whether Yugoslavia hopes to solve it with the help of the military industrial complex and arms trade.

The questions are unpleasant, just as the sarcastic Western people can be unpleasant; they certainly sniffed out that some military circles in Yugoslavia at least implicitly offer such a solution for the military crisis. The specifics of the internal Yugoslav situation and of the situation in Ethiopia and some other African states are being intertwined and linked with the Yugoslav foreign political orientation and the principles declared so many times. As it is generally known that the Ethiopian regime also uses the arms in the struggle against resistance movements in Eritrea and Tigre, it is asked whether Yugoslavia has renounced the views that led it in the United Nations in 1950, when it voted for a resolution in favor of an autonomous federal Eritrea within Ethiopia (Emperor Haile Selassie simply annexed Eritrea in 1962). There is no end to the questions, particularly since it has been predicted for some time that a military delegation of generals will visit Uganda, where it will conduct talks that are certainly not on the development of Ugandan tourism but on new military deals and arms sales (Museveni's regime has obtained considerable quantities of arms), which is probably the most profitable business in poor and backward Africa. A civil war is under way in Uganda, and it flares up in a bloody way from time to time.

Yugoslav arms are used in this war and in the Ethiopian war. The thunder of modern rapid-fire guns belching death and destruction conveys a completely different message than the noble declarations of principles about a nonaligned foreign policy and respect for political solutions in internal disputes. There have been uncountable statements of this nature made by Yugoslav politicians, but it would be difficult to say that the military delegation's talks in Addis Ababa and the announced generals' visit to Kampala confirm them.

Minister Criticizes Article

AU101532 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian
9 Feb 88 p 2

[Article by Federal Secretary of Information Svetozar Durutovic: "To Make Your Jaw Drop"]

[Text] A DELO Nairobi correspondent, presumably under the influence of "Western press and other circles," commented in DELO on the Yugoslav military delegation's visit to Ethiopia with obviously only one aim in

mind: to question in an unreasoned way our military cooperation with nonaligned countries and to belittle the entire Yugoslav foreign policy. In order to be more "convincing" in his arbitrary and tactless attempts to belittle this cooperation, he capriciously claims that Yugoslavia is not giving Ethiopia help at the time everybody else is, and that the purpose of the visit of the SFRY Armed Forces' delegation was to sell arms which would be used against the resistance movement in Eritrea and in the civil war in Uganda where a "military delegation of generals" is supposedly expected to arrive soon. This is more than enough to make one's jaw drop.

The content and tone of this report, its arbitrariness rather than facts, are such that one probably ought not react to it. But, it seriously raises the question of the editorial policy of DELO, the Slovene SAWP organ, which permitted such a tactless report to be printed in its pages.

In the interest of truth it is necessary, however, to say the following:

Yugoslavia is continuously helping Ethiopia according to its material possibilities. In 1985 alone the direct aid sent to this country via the Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations amounted to over 43 million dinars, while aid sent via trade unions amounted to more than 20 million dinars.

Military cooperation with the developing countries, particularly members of the Nonaligned Movement, represents a cornerstone of our entire security and the basis for friendly relations and cooperation in defending the territorial integrity of all nonaligned countries. Reducing such an important element of defense as a whole to the arms trade is extremely irresponsible. The basis of our military cooperation with the developing countries—including Ethiopia, with which we have had traditionally good relations since this country's struggle for independence—is reciprocal cooperation on developing the material-cadre and technological capabilities of the Armed Forces, the exchange of technical-technological experiences and attempts to, keep more successfully in line through joint cooperation with the latest developments in modern equipment, and in the organization and functioning of the Armed Forces, which is something nobody in the world is capable of doing alone. Reducing such an important and complex cooperation to arms sale and degrading members of the military delegation to ordinary arms dealers is, undoubtedly, a major mistake of editorial policy.

The DELO editorial board and publishing council are certainly expected to make similar assessments publicly.

Croatian LC's Radman Released From Post

LD102223 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1635 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Summary] Zagreb, 10 Feb (TANJUG)—At today's session of the Croatian LC Central Committee Presidium, Goran Radman, member of the Croatian LC Central Committee, was released from his post of executive secretary. He is shortly to take up a new post.

Rail Workers Adopt Decision on Price Increase

LD101457 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1152 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Zagreb, 10 Feb (TANJUG)—The Workers' Council of the Zagreb Railway Transport Composite Organization of Associated Labor today adopted a decision on increasing the charges of rail transport by an average of 40 percent. The prices of goods and passenger rail transportation will increase by this percentage.

This decision, as member of the management board of the Composite Organization of Associated Labor, Tihomir Domazet explained, is not final. The FEC must give its agreement to it.

Railway workers, however, are warning that the disparity in prices between rail services and other prices has grown worryingly and that price increases for some products are three to four times greater. [passage omitted]

Instead of the implementation of a price policy in the railway sector in keeping with the long-term program of economic stabilization and other basic documents, the differences are continuing to get worse, it was noted at the Workers' Council of the Zagreb Railway Transport Composite Organization of Associated Labor.

Sarajevo Tram Drivers Stop Work

LD101116 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0905 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Sarajevo, 10 Feb (TANJUG)—Dissatisfied with the distribution of personal incomes, tram drivers at Sarajevo's city transportation organization this morning stopped work, which caused considerable disruption in traffic. Buses ran along the route from Ilidza to Bascarsija but these were not enough, and a large number of employees and pupils were late for work and lessons today.

The dissatisfied tram drivers are trying at a meeting which is in progress to attain their demands and gain an increase in personal incomes.